Ontario

Ontario Geological Survey
Open File Report 6187

Report of Activities, 2005 Resident Geologist Program

Regional Land Use Geologist Report: Northwestern, Northeastern and Southern Ontario Regions

2006

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ONTARIO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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Report of Activities, 2005
Resident Geologist Program

Regional Land Use Geologist Report:
Northwestern, Northeastern and Southern Ontario Regions

by

R.L. Debicki, P. Hinz, A.F. Lichtblau and D.J. Rowell

2006

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Ontario Geological Survey
Resident Geologist Program

Regional Land Use Geologists—2005

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R.L. Debicki, P. Hinz, A.F. Lichtblau and D.J. Rowell

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Regional Land Use Geologists—2005

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INTRODUCTION

The land use group was established within the Resident Geologist Program in 2000 to respond to clients in government, agencies, non-governmental organizations and the mineral sector. The services provided by the Regional Land Use Geologists complement the services provided by the Regional Resident and District Geologists, but relate more to land use planning and access matters that are of interest to, or that may affect prospectors and developers and their activities. Many of the services require knowledge and expertise that are outside the traditional knowledge and experience of practicing geoscientists. For example, land use planning in Ontario can involve a number of different provincial ministries, and more than 12 provincial legislative acts with accompanying regulations, guidelines and policies. Some relate to Crown land, while others relate to private land.

Group members have geoscience and mineral sector expertise, combined with a broad understanding of land use legislation, regulations and issues. All have the qualification of Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo). They work closely with other staff members of the Resident Geologist Program, other representatives of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, and staff members from other ministries to optimize Ontario's land base for sustainable, safe and environmentally responsible mineral resource development. Their activities include:

- providing information to Ministry of Natural Resources personnel about the geology, mineral potential and mining land holdings of areas of interest, and highlighting the possible effects of Crown land use planning initiatives such as the Northern Boreal Initiative on the mineral sector and the province's mineral interests;
- working with Ministry of Natural Resources, the mineral sector, and the forest industry to ensure that information about mineral values and mining lands is available during forest management planning, and that mineral sector representatives are aware of opportunities to participate in, comment on, and benefit from the forest management planning process;
- working with Ministry of Natural Resources, members of the public, and various interest groups to implement "disentanglement solutions" for areas where pre-existing mining lands were included in sites recommended for regulation as provincial parks or conservation reserves in the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy;
- evaluating and commenting on proposed new policies and legislation to ensure that mineral sector interests are addressed, and working with partner ministries to educate government workers, municipal planners, and other interested parties about the implications of approved changes;
- working with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, municipal planners, and planning consultants to ensure that municipal Official Plans, Official Plan Amendments, and consents (lot severances) are consistent with directives in the Provincial Policy Statement regarding mineral resources, mining operations, and possible mining-related hazards;
- helping representatives of First Nations understand and participate in the mineral exploration and development process, while at the same time making the mineral sector aware of First Nation communities' concerns about activities on their traditional lands along with ways of mitigating or accommodating those concerns;
- advocating and coordinating the use of the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential (PSMP) mineral resource assessment methodology in all land use planning initiatives;
- working to make the public at large, along with members of various interest groups, more aware of the interests and importance of the mineral sector and its activities and entitlements in Ontario.

The objective of the group is to effectively represent mineral-related values in the context of competing interests for land use and to optimise the land base available for mineral exploration and development, while helping mineral sector representatives be aware of the implications of legislation and regulations other than the *Mining Act* on their activities. The competing interests for land use vary from place to place across the province, but all have the potential to restrict the availability of land, access to it, and the activities on it.

Contact information for the Regional Land Use Geologists, and other representatives of the Resident Geologist Program is available from

http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/resgeol/contact_e.asp

Please contact the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator or the Regional Land Use Geologist for your area of interest for further information about matters described in this annual report.

THE LAND USE GROUP

The land use group is nominally made up of 4 staff members: the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator (located in Sudbury); the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist (located in Thunder Bay); the northeast Regional Land Use Geologist (located in Timmins); and the southern Regional Land Use Geologist (located in Sudbury). The work of each of the Regional Land Use Geologists relates to land use activities and initiatives in their geographic areas, and encompasses the full range of matters outlined in the introduction. The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator is responsible for the overall coordination of the group, as well as initiatives that are provincial, rather than regional, in scope.

The areas for which the Regional Land Use Geologists are responsible are shown in the index map on page v.

The land use group went through a period of change in 2005. Robert Fraser, northeast Regional Land Use Geologist, left the government in September 2004 to pursue new challenges within the mineral sector. His position remained vacant for the last quarter of 2004 and throughout 2005 due to staffing constraints. Glenn Seim, District Geologist in Timmins was named acting northeast Regional Land Use Geologist in January 2006. As an interim measure during 2005 , the southern Regional Land Use Geologist and Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator shared many of the essential duties of this position. They were helped by staff at the Resident Geologist Program Timmins regional office.

Abraham Drost, northwest Regional Land Use Geologist, left his position in October 2004 for new opportunities within the mineral sector. Andreas Lichtblau, Regional Resident Geologist in Red Lake, was appointed acting northwest Regional Land Use Geologist in October 2004. At the same time the search for a full-time replacement was initiated. Peter Hinz, formerly District Geologist with the Resident Geologist in Kenora was the successful candidate in the competition for the position. He assumed his new duties in Kenora on February 28, 2005, and subsequently relocated to Thunder Bay in July 2005.

In late 2005, Dave Rowell, southern Regional Land Use Geologist was the successful candidate for a new position in the Ontario Geological Survey. He left his job with the land use group on January 20, 2006. Ken Steele, District Geologist for southwest Ontario was appointed acting southern Regional Land Use Geologist, based in Toronto, in mid-January.

CROWN LAND USE PLANNING

Although the Ministry of Natural Resources has overall responsibility for surface activities on Crown land through the *Public Lands Act*, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has responsibility for managing Crown mining rights. Thus, land use planning initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Natural Resources may impact on the interests of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and its clients.

Members of the land use group contribute to a wide range of Crown land use planning initiatives and site-specific work in areas across the province. Clients with whom they are involved while engaged in this work include

prospectors, representatives of junior and senior mineral exploration and development companies; concerned citizens; various First Nation communities; small and large municipal governments; commercial and industrial enterprises including the forest industry; and various provincial ministries and federal agencies.

Ongoing and current Crown land use planning initiatives with which the land use group was involved in 2005 are described below, along with the contributions made by the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and Regional Land Use Geologists.

Ontario's Living Legacy

The Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy was announced in 1999 as the provincial initiative whereby a network of representative life-science and earth-science features would be protected as parks or conservation reserves in central Ontario. At the same time, it was intended to strengthen the economic health of the region. The land use strategy identified a total of 378 new provincial parks, park additions and conservation reserves, 8 stand-alone forest reserves, 9 Signature Sites and 86 enhanced management areas within the "Area of the Undertaking" as identified under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. The Area of the Undertaking is roughly co-incident with those portions of Ontario south of the 51st parallel that are underlain by Precambrian rocks.

For the purposes of the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy, the Area of the Undertaking was divided into 3 planning areas: Boreal West; Boreal East; and Great Lakes–St. Lawrence. The Boreal West area is the same as Ministry of Natural Resources' northwest region. The Boreal East area includes the northern part of Ministry of Natural Resources' northeast region, including the Wawa, Chapleau, Timmins, Kirkland Lake, Cochrane, and Hearst districts. The Great Lakes–St. Lawrence area includes the southern part of Ministry of Natural Resources' northeast region, including the North Bay, Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie districts. It also includes those parts of the Ministry of Natural Resources' southern region that are underlain by Precambrian rocks of the Canadian Shield.

Of the protected areas, 21 new parks and 75 new conservation reserves are located in the Boreal West area; 31 new parks and 62 new conservation reserves are located in the Boreal East area; and 54 new parks and 135 new conservation reserves are located in the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence area. An additional conservation reserve northeast of Elliot Lake, commemorating 4 Ministry of Natural Resources employees who were killed in a helicopter crash in January 2003, was added to the list of Ontario's Living Legacy protected areas being regulated in the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence planning area.

In 2005, the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist contributed to the regulation and planning processes for sites in the Boreal West area. The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator, staff of the Timmins Resident Geologist office and the southern Regional Land Use Geologist assisted with the regulation and planning processes for sites in the Boreal East area in the absence of a northeast Regional Land Use Geologist. The southern Regional Land Use Geologist undertook the same work for sites in the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence area. In addition, all members of the land use group responded to numerous inquiries regarding the land use strategy, its implementation, and its implications for the mineral sector and other interests.

SITE REGULATION

Considerable work is involved in regulating each of the new protected areas. Survey plans must be prepared; withdrawal orders for the mining rights must be reviewed and adjusted if necessary; public consultation must be done; and legislation must be prepared and passed. The regulation process has been ongoing since 2000. In 2005, one bill was passed to regulate 3 new parks, 10 park additions, and 31 new conservation reserves. It also included an adjustment announced in the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy that reduced the size of the pre-existing Abitibi–de Troyes Provincial Park.

Work done included monitoring the proposed final boundaries of sites being prepared for regulation using data shared by Ministry of Natural Resources planning staff. The sites were screened for potential impacts on mining lands and areas of high mineral potential using ArcView® Geographic Information System software, and changes proposed where needed. Such impacts resulted on occasion where claims were staked up to the boundary of the

original withdrawal, and minor boundary adjustments were subsequently proposed to facilitate the preparation of the survey plans for the sites. Re-withdrawals to accommodate boundary adjustments were also facilitated where needed.

The progress of the sites through the regulation process was monitored, and relevant information concerning any changes in size or other concerns was recorded. In addition, representatives of mineral sector organizations were notified of public consultation periods during which they could provide comments before sites were regulated.

The province-wide status of the regulation process at the end of 2005 is indicated in Table 1. Plans are to regulate an additional 16 parks and 12 conservation reserves early in 2006.

Table 1. Regulation status of Ontario's Living Legacy sites province wide.

Current Status	Parks			Conservation Reserves		
	Number of Sites Regulated	Total Number of Sites	% of Sites Regulated/ to Regulate	Number of Sites Regulated	Total Number of Sites	% of Sites Regulated/ to Regulate
Number of Sites – End of 1999	0	106	0%	0	272	0%
Number of Sites – End of 2000	8	106	8%	38	272	14%
Number of Sites – End of 2001	15	106	14%	82	272	30%
Number of Sites – End of 2002	33	106	31%	132	272	49%
Number of Sites – End of 2003	69	106	65%	206	272	76%
Number of Sites – End of 2004	72	106	68%	218	272	80%
Number of Sites – End of 2005	86	106	81%	249	272	92%
Number of Sites – Early 2006	16	106	15%	12	272	4%
Total Remaining to be Regulated	4	106	4%	11	272	4%

The current regulation status of the Ontario's Living Legacy protected areas in the 3 planning areas is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Regulation status of Ontario's Living Legacy sites in the 3 planning areas.

Planning Area	Parks			Conservation Reserves		
	Number of Sites Regulated	Total Number of Sites	% of Sites Regulated	Number of Sites Regulated	Total Number of Sites	% of Sites Regulated
Boreal West	19	21	90%	66	75	88%
Boreal East	28	31	90%	58	62	93%
Great Lakes–St. Lawrence	39	54	72%	125	135	93%
Total Regulated at the End of 2005	86	106	81%	249	272	91%

Although the public consultation required before the remaining parks and conservation reserves can be regulated has been completed for most sites, the regulation of some of the remaining sites has been deferred due to issues raised by First Nations. For example, the regulation of 2 sites has been deferred due to the Fort William First Nation land claim.

DISENTANGLEMENT

When the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy was announced in 1999, it included many areas selected for protection in parks and conservation reserves that overlapped areas of pre-existing mining lands. Such areas of overlap were designated as "forest reserves". The land use designation provided for ongoing mineral exploration and development and access to support such work, but prohibited all other resource development. The intention was that the sites would be added to the protected areas if and when the mining lands lapsed through normal processes. To facilitate this, withdrawal orders were placed over the areas of mining lands as well as the rest of the proposed protected areas.

When the land use strategy was approved, there were forest reserves associated with an estimated 107 of the new parks and conservation reserves, province-wide. Some of these conflicts were resolved when more detailed mapping information became available. Others were resolved between 1999 and 2002, when many of the areas of mining lands that were designated as forest reserves lapsed. Claim holders stated that the forest reserve designation made it impossible for them to option their properties or raise funds to do the work needed to keep them in good standing.

At the same time, environmental groups argued that the forest reserve concept and the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy provision that allowed controlled mineral exploration to continue in areas with provincially significant mineral potential within the new parks and conservation reserves meant that there could be "mining" in protected areas.

The Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Northern Development and Mines sent a joint letter to the Ontario Prospectors Association and Partnership for Public Lands on March 15, 2002. In it, they invited the groups to provide recommendations to government on the best way to "disentangle" the remaining mining lands in forest reserves from the Ontario's Living Legacy sites, and thereby resolve the concerns of both groups.

The two groups engaged in disentanglement discussions in 2002 and 2003. They had complementary objectives in the disentanglement exercise: the Ontario Prospectors Association wanted to see the protected areas situated away from areas of mining lands and high mineral potential, and the Partnership for Public Lands wanted to see areas designated for protection free of mineral exploration and development. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines provided support for these discussions.

Although the groups did not comment on the 8 stand-alone forest reserves, or 3 other sites added after their discussions began, they made joint recommendations on July 2, 2003 for disentangling approximately half of the 66 Ontario's Living Legacy sites where conflicts remained. At that time, only about 27 850 hectares of forest reserves remained within 66 candidate protected areas. The remaining forest reserves tended to be areas of long-standing mining lands with significant mineral values. The groups also asked the government to recommend solutions for their consideration on 20 sites where they could not reach agreement on disentanglement.

By mid-2004, staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Northern Development and Mines had reviewed the joint recommendations and proposed government solutions for 18 of the 20 "deferred" sites. They had also proposed solutions for the 8 stand-alone forest reserves and 3 add-on sites that the groups had not considered.

The government's solutions were aimed at reducing the conflict as much as possible while achieving the 12% target for protection and balancing resource management considerations. The government's proposed solutions were based on the following options and/or combinations thereof

- retain the 'status quo' for some forest reserves (i.e., let claims lapse through normal processes and then regulate the subject lands for protection);
- remove part or all of some forest reserves and find adjacent replacement land to ensure no net loss in the size or integrity of the protected area;
- remove part or all of some forest reserves and not seek replacement lands.

The government's response to the joint Ontario Prospectors Association and Partnership for Public Lands recommendations, and its proposed solutions for most of the remaining sites, were presented to the groups in July 2004. The groups responded to the government's proposed solutions in October/November 2004.

Following further discussion, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Northern Development and Mines announced the proposed solutions for disentangling remaining mining lands from the proposed protected areas on May 10, 2005. The proposed solutions were posted on the Environmental Registry website at

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/025316ex.htm

with greater detail provided on the Ministry of Natural Resources website.

No changes were proposed for 25 of the 66 sites. No further public process was planned for those sites. Changes were proposed for the remaining 41 sites, and a commitment was made to do further public consultation before the changes are implemented. The proposals for the remaining sites are as follows.

- Drop part or all of the forest reserves and immediately seek other land in the same area that may be added to the provincial park or conservation reserve – 17 sites.
- Drop part or all of the forest reserve designation, change the area to a general use area or enhanced management area land use designation, and possibly seek replacement lands in future – 23 sites.
- Initiate a separate review process to resolve the ongoing uncertainty – 1 site.

The Senior Manager of the Resident Geologist Program represented the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines during the various disentanglement discussions. The Regional Land Use Geologists provided considerable support to him during the course of these talks, both while discussions involving the Ontario Prospectors Association and the Partnership for Public Lands were going on, and while subsequent sessions involving only the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines were taking place.

The support included compiling site-specific information such as past and current mining land tenure; tallying mineral sector investments in various sites as indicated by work reported for assessment credit; recording the history of site-specific discussions that led to the selection of sites for protection under the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy; and evaluating the metallic and industrial mineral potential of the sites. The Regional Land Use Geologists also used their local knowledge of the sites in their regions to make observations about the recommended options for disentanglement to the Senior Manager.

The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and the southern Regional Land Use Geologist worked with staff of Ministry of Natural Resources following the announcement of the proposed solutions in an effort to facilitate the public consultation for the sites to be adjusted so that appropriate changes to the site boundaries could be made as quickly as possible. This work included reviewing potential candidates for replacement lands, where needed, and working with other staff of the Resident Geologist Program to prepare mineral resource assessments to assist with the screening of the potential candidates for replacement lands. Notice of public consultation for periods ranging from 45 to 75 days has been posted for 14 of the 41 sites.

In addition, they provided support to the Northeast Manager of the Resident Geologist Program, who was engaged in discussions with Ministry of Natural Resources, local First Nations, and representatives of forestry companies and sectoral interest groups who were working to find replacement lands for one site, C1564 (Woman River Complex Conservation Reserve), which had inadvertently been placed in an area of pre-existing mining-rights only patents. Tentative agreement on replacement lands was reached in late 2005: public consultation will be undertaken before the proposed replacement lands are regulated.

Sites that were the subject of disentanglement discussions are listed in Table 3 along with their recommended planning solution and the date the solution was posted on the Environmental Registry. Where no date is indicated, the proposed solution has not yet been put forward for public review and comment.

The southern Regional Land Use Geologist also made a presentation to a meeting of Local Citizen Committee members, organized by Northwatch in October, to explain the disentanglement process, the recommendations that have been made, and the plans for additional consultation before any of the recommendations are implemented.

EXCLUSIONS OF TIME

While the disentanglement discussions were going on, the Ontario Prospectors Association became concerned that claimholders were continuing to lose their claims in forest reserves because of the ongoing uncertainty about the ultimate status of the forest reserves, and because of the amount of time being taken for the disentanglement discussions. In May 2003, the association formally asked the government to exclude any remaining mining lands in forest reserves from the requirements for assessment work until the final configuration of the sites was decided, effectively "freezing" the claims until the disentanglement process was completed.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Northern Development and Mines discussed the proposal to apply the "Exclusion of Time" provision of the *Mining Act* with the Ontario Prospectors Association and Partnership for Public Lands. The ministries ultimately agreed that a one-year freeze would be given to all claims within forest reserves that were in good standing as of July 2, 2003. They also agreed that claims that had lapsed since July 2, 2003 would be reinstated where feasible, and the Exclusion of Time applied to them too. Altogether, this action involved approximately 1100 staked and leased claims.

Table 3. Sites subject to disentanglement discussions.

Site Number	Planning Area	Site Name	Proposed Solution	Environmental Registry Posting
C14	Great Lakes–St. Lawrence: Conservation Reserves	Mellon Lake Conservation Reserve	Status quo	N/A
C98		Harrison Lake Forest Conservation Reserve	RA – NSRL	October 21, 2005
C138		Blue Lake End Moraine Conservation Reserve	Status quo	N/A
C159		McLaren Forest Conservation Reserve	RS – NSRL	
C178		MacClennan Esker Conservation Reserve	RA – NSRL	November 28, 2005
C206		Centre Creek Old Growth White Pine Conservation Reserve	RA – SRL	
C215		Gough Outwash Forest Conservation Reserve	RS – NSRL	
P173	Great Lakes–St. Lawrence: Parks	Sturgeon River Additions Provincial Park	RS – SRL	
P174		Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park	Status quo	N/A
P187		Killarney Lakelands and Headwaters Provincial Park	Status quo	N/A
P192		Spanish River Provincial Park	RS – NSRL	
P228		River aux Sables Provincial Park	Status quo	N/A
P261		Little White River Provincial Park	RA – NSRL	November 28, 2005
P273		Algoma Headwaters Provincial Park	Status quo	N/A
P278		Pancake Bay Additions Provincial Park	RA – NSRL	November 28, 2005
P282		Batchawana River Provincial Park	RA – NSRL	November 28, 2005
P331		Killarney Provincial Park Additions	Status quo	N/A
F172	Great Lakes–St. Lawrence: Forest Reserves	Daisy Lake Uplands	Status quo	N/A
F175		Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest	RA – SRL	
F179		Capreol/Hanmer Delta	RA – NSRL	November 28, 2005
F181		Kukagami Lake	Status quo	N/A
F207		Cow Lake	RA – NSRL	November 28, 2005
F208		Dowling/Fairbank e	RA – NSRL	November 28, 2005
F212		Shakespeare Forest	RA – SRL	
F216		Nelson Delta East	RA – NSRL	November 28, 2005
C1509	Boreal East: Conservation Reserves	Kwinkwaga Ground Moraine Uplands Conservation Reserve	Status quo	N/A
C1517		South Michipicoten River – Superior Shoreline Conservation Reserve	Status quo	N/A
C1519		Lake Superior Highlands Conservation Reserve	Special status	N/A
C1527		Manitou Mountain Conservation Reserve	Status quo	N/A
C1564[1]		Woman River Complex Conservation Reserve	RA – NSRL	
C1584		Tatachikapika River Plain Conservation Reserve	RS – SRL	
C1587		Meteor Lake Outwash Fans Conservation Reserve	RA – NSRL	November 28, 2005
C1594		Grassy River Halliday Lake Forests & Lowlands Conservation Reserve	RS – NSRL	
C1596		Whitefish River Sandy Till Conservation Reserve	Status quo	N/A
C1597		Night Hawk Shoreline Bluffs Conservation Reserve	RS – SRL	
C1600		Mistinikon Lake Uplands Conservation Reserve	RS – SRL	

Site Number	Planning Area	Site Name	Proposed Solution	Environmental Registry Posting
C1602	Boreal East: Conservation Reserves (Cont'd)	Whitefish and East Whitefish Lakes Sandy Till Upland Conservation Reserve	RA – SRL	
C1603		Elspeth Lake White Birch Outwash Conservation Reserve	RA – SRL	
C1607		Kesagami River Outwash Plain Conservation Reserve	Status quo	N/A
C1626		South Grassy Lake Outwash Conservation Reserve	RA – SRL	
C1628		Trollope Lake Burnt Hill Poplar Spruce Conservation Reserve	RA – NSRL	
C1704		Hilliardton Marsh Conservation Reserve	RA – NSRL	
C1705		McGarry Township Forest Conservation Reserve	RA – SRL	
C1712		Coral Rapids Wetland Conservation Reserve	RA – SRL	
P1501	Boreal East: Parks	Craigs Pitt Provincial Park Addition	RA – SRL	
P1506		White Lake Provincial Park Addition	Status quo	N/A
P1557[2]		Ivanhoe Provincial Park Addition	Status quo	N/A
P1569		Groundhog River Waterway Provincial Park	RS – NSRL	
P1591		MacMurchy Township End Moraine Provincial Park	RA – NSRL	
P1616		Abitibi–De Troyes (Reconfiguration and Reclassification)	Status quo	N/A
P1621		Esker Lakes Addition	Status quo	N/A
P1622		Lake Abitibi Islands Provincial Park	Status quo	N/A
P1632		Gem Lake Maple Bedrock Provincial Park	RA – SRL	
P1639		Grassy River–Mond Lake Lowlands & Ferris Lake Uplands Provincial Park	RA – NSRL	November 28, 2005
P1715		West Montreal River Provincial Park	RS – SRL	
C2225	Boreal West: Conservation Reserves	Gravel River Conservation Reserve	Status quo	N/A
C2245		Lake Superior Archipelago	Status quo	N/A
C2247		Lake Nipigon Conservation Reserve	RS – NSRL	January 16, 2006
C2332		Bruce Lake Conservation Reserve	Status quo	N/A
C2334		Trout Lake Conservation Reserve	RA – NSRL	
C2340		Eagle Lake Islands	Status quo	N/A
C2354		Hamill Lake Conservation Reserve	RS – SRL	December 19, 2005
C2366		Lake of the Woods	Status quo	N/A
P2239	Boreal West: Parks	Ruby Lake Provincial Park	Status quo	N/A
P2363		Eagle–Dogtooth Provincial Park	RS – NSRL	
P2370		Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Addition	RS – SRL	December 19, 2005

- Special status – a separate review process will be initiated to resolve the ongoing uncertainty
- Status quo – no change
- RA – SRL – remove all mining claims and leases and immediately seek replacement lands for protection
- RS – SRL – remove some mining claims and leases and immediately seek replacement lands for protection
- RA – NSRL – remove all mining claims and leases and possibly seek replacement lands in the future for protection
- RS – NSRL – remove some mining claims and leases and possibly seek replacement lands in the future for protection
- N/A – not applicable

[1] This site has mining patents, not claims or leases. A separate exercise to identify replacement lands has already been completed.

[2] This site was added to the original list of sites identified for disentanglement.

[*] In a very few cases, claims that were along the margins of the proposed protected areas had lapsed, and the portions of the original claims that fell outside the proposed park or conservation reserve had been restaked. When it was recognized that this was happening, a "special status" designation was applied to other claims in good standing along the margins of the proposed protected areas to preclude them from being restaked should they lapse before the Exclusion of Time provision was implemented.

The reinstatements and application of the Exclusion of Time provision did not change the intended outcome for each site. It was therefore not considered to be a policy change to the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy or to require public consultation.

The Exclusions of Time were granted in late 2004 and early 2005. For each claim, the freeze began on the day that the individual exclusion order was signed. Notices regarding the Exclusion of Time and decision were sent to all affected claimholders. Since the protected area designation has not yet been removed from some affected mining lands in accordance with the proposed disentanglement solution, the southern Regional Land Use Geologist identified the claims and leases needing an extension of the Exclusion of Time and worked with Mining Lands to ensure that the exclusion orders were applied to appropriate properties as needed.

SIGNATURE SITES

As mentioned previously, the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy identified 9 Signature Sites in addition to the 378 new parks, park additions and conservation reserves. The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and Regional Land Use Geologists continued to provide input into the development of management plans and other strategies for the Signature Sites in 2005. The classes of Crown land in each of the Signature Sites are listed in Table 4, along with the contact within the Resident Geologist Program land use group who is involved with each of the Signature Sites.

Table 4. Signature Sites and land use group contacts.

Signature Site		Land Use Group Contact
Name	**Land Use Designations**[1]	
Algoma Headwaters	• provincial park • conservation reserve	Northeast Regional Land Use Geologist
Great Lakes Heritage Coast	• general use area • enhanced management area • provincial park • conservation reserve	Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator
Kawartha Highlands	• provincial park	Southern Regional Land Use Geologist
Killarney	• enhanced management area • provincial park	Southern Regional Land Use Geologist
Lake Nipigon Basin	• enhanced management area • provincial park • conservation reserve	Northwest Regional Land Use Geologist
Nagagamisis Central Plateau Complex	• enhanced management area • provincial park	Northeast Regional Land Use Geologist
Spanish River Waterway	• enhanced management area • provincial park	Southern Regional Land Use Geologist
St. Raphael	• enhanced management area • provincial park	Northwest Regional Land Use Geologist
Woodland Caribou	• enhanced management area • provincial park • conservation reserve	Northwest Regional Land Use Geologist

[1] The various Signature Sites may contain one or more areas of each of the Crown land use designations cited.

During development of management plans for all Signature Sites, the representatives of the land use group have promoted the concepts that

- mineral exploration and development interests need to be considered and balanced with natural heritage values;
- management plans for new protected areas need to consider other activities and interests on surrounding Crown and private lands;
- management directions for mineral exploration and development in any general use areas and enhanced management areas within Signature Sites must reasonably reflect provincial legislation and regulations;
- decades of mineral exploration activity have not significantly impacted or degraded the natural environment, since areas of high mineral potential that have long exploration histories were chosen for their natural heritage values as new protected areas;
- the mineral sector now has a greater awareness of environmental concerns than in the past, and has voluntarily adopted exploration practices that limit potential environmental impacts.

Algoma Headwaters Signature Site

The Algoma Headwaters Signature Site encompasses 60 000 hectares, and is composed of 3 provincial parks and 1 conservation reserve. These components include: Algoma Headwaters Natural Environment Class Provincial Park (42 736 hectares), the Goulais River Waterway Class Provincial Park (5086 hectares) and the Aubinadong–Nushatogaini River Waterway Class Provincial Park (4928 hectares), and the Ranger North Conservation Reserve (7020 hectares).

The Algoma Highlands Signature Site planning team began its work during 2002, when it released its Terms of Reference for public review. A "Background Information" document was released for public review in 2003. It included the various alternatives for planning, management and operations of the signature site, from which a 'preferred' alternative has been selected that is contained within the Preliminary Strategy. The preliminary management strategy for the site was released for public review and comment in February 2005.

The northeast Regional Land Use Geologist is nominally the contact within the land use group for this Signature Site. In the absence of a northeast Regional Land Use Geologist in 2005, the District Geologist in the Sault Ste. Marie office acted as advisor to the Algoma Highlands Signature Site planning team.

Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site

The Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site is the most complex of the Signature Sites. It extends 2900 km from southern end Georgian Bay to the western end of Lake Superior, and encloses areas of general-use Crown land, enhanced management areas, provincial parks, and conservation reserves. In addition, it encompasses areas of private lands—including areas within municipal jurisdictions—plus all or part of 18 Indian Reserves.

The planning team for the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site shifted its focus from public consultation to data compilation and review in 2003. The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator reviewed the resulting report in early 2004, provided comments to the planning team, and offered to provide additional information concerning mining lands, mineral exploration and development activities, etc., if desired.

Since then, the Ministry of Natural Resources has been reviewing the work that has been done and preparing recommendations on future directions for this Signature Site. Although it is likely that the focus of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site will be the role that it can play in enhancing tourism and economic development opportunities for areas within the Signature Site, no decision has been announced to date.

During the year, members of the land use group were involved in planning matters relating to sites within the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site. For example, the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist reviewed and commented on the preliminary park management plan for Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator provided input into management plan being prepared for Lake Superior Provincial Park, and provided advice and display materials for the new interpretive centre being built at French River Provincial Park.

Kawartha Highlands Signature Site

Following a period of public review and consultation led by a local stakeholders' committee in accordance with the directions of the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy, a decision was made to regulate Kawartha Highlands Signature Site as a provincial park. The *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act* was passed in June 2003. The act was formally filed with the Registrar of Regulations and came into effect on April 21, 2005.

Local stakeholder involvement in the site has continued through the Management Advisory Board, which was directed to establish subcommittees to assist in undertaking the advisory mandate when required. To date, three subcommittees, the Kawartha Highlands Ecological Integrity Subcommittee; the Trails and Roads Subcommittee; and the Essential Services Subcommittee have been established. Objectives and a time framework for the completion of work have been identified for each.

More information about the planning process for the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site is available at

http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/kawa.html

During the summer of 2005, Open Houses were held in Apsley and Buckhorn in support of the park management planning process. In November 2005, the planning team posted notice on the Environmental Registry of the opportunity to review and comment on the Background Information Document for the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park. The southern Regional Land Use Geologist reviewed the document, and found that there was nothing of concern for the mineral sector.

The planning team is scheduled to develop an outline of management issues and options for the park for public review and comment during the summer of 2006.

Killarney Signature Site

A draft management plan for Killarney Provincial Park was prepared in 1998. A notice inviting members of the public to review and comment on the draft plan was first published on August 24, 1998. A decision was later made not to proceed with the management plan, since additions along all margins of Killarney Provincial Park were proposed through the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy.

The intent is to incorporate the draft Killarney Provincial Park Management Plan into an expanded project of Killarney Signature Site planning. The Killarney Signature Site planning will include the existing park, park additions and adjacent new parks and enhanced management areas.

The adjacent new parks and park additions include 2 of the sites where pre-existing mining lands were overlain by new protected areas. These sites were among the areas discussed by the Partnership for Public Lands and the Ontario Prospectors Association during their disentanglement talks. The preparation of the new management plan was awaiting a decision as to how the conflicts between the pre-existing mining lands and new protected areas were to be resolved.

In May 2005, the government announced that the intention for the conflicted areas in P187, Killarney Lakelands Provincial Park, and P331, Killarney Provincial Park addition were to maintain the status quo, and not make any boundary adjustments or changes in land use designation.

Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site

The Lake Nipigon Basin stretches from Wabakimi Park in the north to Highway 17 and Lake Superior in the south. At 448 000 hectares, Lake Nipigon is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world. The lake and its surrounding basin have been subject to tourism, recreational and commercial activities for over a century. Five existing parks in the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site have supported the tourism and recreational activities. They have been supplemented by 2 additional provincial parks, 1 park addition, 3 conservation reserves, and 6 enhanced management areas to form the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site.

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist is the contact within the land use group for this Signature Site. The draft Ecological Land Use Resource Management Strategy in 2004 was completed and circulated for public review in 2004. Work in 2005 addressed changes to the draft management plan in response to feedback from the public review process. In addition, a proposed change to the boundaries of the Lake Nipigon Conservation Reserve was posted for public review and comment in January 2006. The change is part of the disentanglement process, and is intended to remove 5 mining claims totalling 438 hectares from forest reserve status and redesignate the area as part of the adjacent South Lake Nipigon Enhanced Management Area.

Nagagamisis Central Plateau Complex Signature Site

A planning team was established for the Nagagamisis Central Plateau Complex Signature Site in 2002, and the northeast Regional Land Use Geologist was identified as the contact person within Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to act as an advisor to the team. Since then, Open Houses were held in June 2003 to obtain public input, and a plan outlining management issues and options was developed and circulated for review and comment in 2004. The northeast Regional Land Use Geologist commented on sections of the strategy that relate to mineral resources, mineral exploration and development activities. Since then, the planning team was been working on a draft management plan for the area, and announced in November 2005 that the plan would be available for public review and comment during winter 2005/2006.

Spanish River Waterway Signature Site

The Spanish River Waterway Signature Site consists of the 35 386-hectare Spanish River Waterway Class Provincial Park and the 12 283-hectare Biscotasi Lake Natural Environment Class Provincial Park, as well as the Sinaminda and Kennedy Lake, the Acheson Lake, and the Swann Lake enhanced management areas. Altogether, the site encompasses almost 100 000 hectares.

The Spanish River Signature Site steering committee released its draft management options document for review and comment in August 2004. The southern Regional Land Use Geologist, the contact within the land use group for this Signature Site, reviewed the draft document and provided comments on the proposed provisions. Plans were to update the draft management options and release the preliminary management strategy for public review in 2005, but to date the preliminary management strategy has not been released.

St. Raphael Signature Site

The St. Raphael Signature Site encompasses more than 153 000 hectares of remote landscape, and is made up of St. Raphael Provincial Park and the Miniss Enhanced Management Area. The St. Raphael Provincial Park is a Waterway Class Provincial Park (90 521 hectares) that encloses the Miniss Enhanced Management Area (62 705 hectares), a "remote access" enhanced management area.

The planning process for this Signature Site is well underway. The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist is an advisor to the St. Raphael Signature Site planning team. In 2005 he continued to provide input into the planning initiative.

Planning documents that have been released include the Background Document, which presented a summary of the information and data gathered as of January 2004. It is intended to help with the preparation of the Signature Site Strategy, the Park Management Plan and the Enhanced Management Area Resource Management Plan. The subsequent Signature Site Issues and Options Document presented the issues identified to date, developed objectives, and offered strategies and management options to meet the objectives and resolve the issues of the Signature Site.

The Signature Site Preliminary Strategy was released for public review and comment in November 2005. It was prepared as high-level direction to guide the future development of an individual management plan for the park and a resource management plan for the enhanced management area. It provides the overall vision for the Signature Site and management direction on a variety of topics. Until this point in the planning process the documents produced

have been for the entire Signature Site. From now on there will be separate plans produced for the park, the enhanced management area, and the overall Signature Site.

Of primary interest to the minerals sector is the provision in the Preliminary Strategy ensuring that workers can use one or more routes through the park area to reach the enhanced management area, even though the *Parks Act* prohibits crossings for the purposes of mineral exploration and mining. The document also addresses water crossings needed to support forestry activities in the enhanced management area, and notes that mineral-sector workers should plan to use forest access roads to gain access to the enhanced management area.

The Draft Management Strategy includes a set of best practices for exploration and development in the enhanced management area of the Signature Site. Due to the contribution of the Regional Land Use Geologist, the guidelines are not "prescriptive" in directing how mineral-related activities should be undertaken in areas of concern.

Woodland Caribou Signature Site

The Woodland Caribou Signature Site consists of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (450 000 hectares), the recommended Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Additions (29 788 hectares), Eagle–Snowshoe Conservation Reserve (34 548 hectares), Pipestone Bay–McIntosh Enhanced Management Area (21 978 hectares) and a forest reserve (255 hectares).

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist continued working with the Red Lake Regional Resident Geologist during 2005 to ensure mineral exploration interests were adequately represented during the planning process for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site. The Planning Team spent most of 2005 working on the Draft Management Strategy, which is due to be released for public comment in early 2006.

As with the St. Raphael Signature Site, input into the Woodland Caribou Signature Site planning process in 2005 included providing additional information regarding mineral exploration, and contributing to a set of best practices for exploration and development in the enhanced management area within the Signature Site.

ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy identified 86 enhanced management areas across the province. Since several were made up of more than one map unit, there are actually 98 map units with the enhanced management area designation. They were identified due to the presence of special natural heritage values, or the need for special management. They fall into 5 of the 7 categories of enhanced management areas identified in the land use strategy. The 2 remaining categories were established for future use in land use planning.

The categories, and numbers of sites of each type are listed in Table 5. The parts of large enhanced management areas that are identified by different names in the Crown Land Use Atlas are counted separately in the table.

Table 5. Categories of enhanced management areas.

Category–Enhanced Management Area	Number of Map Units: Boreal West Area	Number of Map Units: Boreal East Area	Number of Map Units: Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Area	Total Number of Map Units
a – remote access	4	2	33	39
g – Great Lakes coastal areas	1	0	7	8
i – intensive forestry	0	0	0	0
n – natural heritage	0	2	25	27
r – recreation	4	0	15	19
t – resource-based tourism	0	0	0	0
w – fish and wildlife	4	0	1	5
Total of enhanced management areas	13	4	81	98

Although not indicated on claim maps, enhanced management areas are identified in the Ministry of Natural Resources' Land Use Atlas, available on line at

http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca/

Ministry of Natural Resources staff members are currently working on policies for permitted uses within the enhanced management areas established through the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy. Since some of the proposed policies and guidelines may have impacts on mineral exploration and development activities, the land use group reviewed and commented on the draft policies as they were developed. In 2005, these reviews took place both in the context of the Signature Site management plan development for sites associated with Signature Sites, and independently for stand-alone enhanced management areas.

MINERAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS

The Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy originally contained a provision that allowed "controlled exploration" in those portions of new protected areas where "provincially significant mineral potential" is present. This was the impetus for an industry-government committee of geoscientists to begin work on developing the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential mineral resource assessment methodology.

The Government ultimately found that reconciling the needs of protected areas and the interests of the exploration community in such areas was proving to be too difficult, and announced in March 2002 that "controlled exploration" would not be allowed within the new protected areas. Work to enhance and refine the methodology continued, however, since it was recognized that it would provide a valuable tool to support future land use planning decisions.

The draft mineral resource assessment was posted on the Environmental Registry for public review and comment in 2002. The land use group worked with staff from the regional and district offices of the Resident Geologist Program in 2004 to validate the outcomes of mineral resource assessments in selected areas, and identify any additional modifications that might be needed to the methodology.

During 2005, the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator worked with other staff of the Resident Geologist program to review the screening criteria for the various metallic ore deposit models, and to update the "provincial significance factor" in light of current exploration activity, mining activity and market conditions.

The methodology was originally intended for detailed manual reviews at scales of 1:50 000 or greater detail. It was recognized early in the development process, however, that there was a demand for generalized automated reviews at scales of 1:250 000 or less detail. An automated process for completing generalized automated reviews was developed with the assistance of a geographic information system (GIS) consultant. The automated process used the principles behind the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential methodology, but did not query the geoscience data in detail.

In 2005, staff of the Resident Geologist Program continued their in-depth review of the effectiveness of the automated process and the consistency between manual assessments and automated assessments. This work was led by Glenn Seim, currently Acting Regional Land Use Geologist for northeastern Ontario. It was found that a number of problems with the automated assessments led to inconsistencies between the outcomes of manual and automated assessments. It was further recognized that most of the problems related to the complexity of the automated process, in that it was attempting to emulate the manual process too closely.

As a result, an effort was made to allow the manual and automated processes to be more easily distinguished from each other, and to overcome the problems caused by the complexity of the original automated program. Mr. Seim led this work, with input from other staff of the Resident Geologist program including representatives of the land use group. A concept for a completely new automated methodology was developed, and steps were taken to facilitate its development.

In support of the automated process, the southern Regional Land Use Geologist upgraded and updated the digital databases in 2005, including upgrading the information stored in the tables that accompany the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential industrial mineral maps. New data tables were created to capture more sand and gravel

deposit information. In addition, more data was captured in the bedrock-derived aggregate attribute table. This work will be completed in early 2006 as a joint project between the Resident Geologist Program and the Sedimentary Geoscience Section.

Such work will continue in future. Both the manual and automated mineral resource assessment methodologies will be monitored and updated as new data become available, ore deposit models are better understood, and market factors and exploration targets change.

ROOM TO GROW

The Ontario Forest Accord, which was released at the same time as the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy, includes provisions for establishing additional protected areas if the amount of wood harvested from within a forest management unit increases. The provision for establishing additional protected areas is known as "Room to Grow".

In 2003, the Ministry of Natural Resources established Room to Grow Leadership and Implementation teams. The Senior Manager of the Resident Geologist Program was a member of the Leadership Team, while the southern Regional Land Use Geologist was a member of the Implementation Team. The main objective of the Implementation Team was to prepare procedural guidelines outlining the process to be followed if and when the Room to Grow provision is triggered. The guidelines were completed in November 2004 and forwarded to the Leadership Team for review and approval. They reflected input from the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist, who provided advice to the Implementation Team based on his direct involvement in 2 Room to Grow pilot projects.

Fundamental principles advanced during development of the procedural guidelines, and during site-specific discussions of candidates for protection, were that active mining lands should be avoided and the mineral potential should be considered along with all other values present.

Room to Grow Initiatives

Two pilot Room to Grow initiatives have been started in the province, both in northwestern Ontario. One involved Bowater Incorporated, and the other involved Longlac Wood Industries. New protected areas were proposed in the Bowater forest management units and in forest management units producing fibre processed at the mill of Longlac Wood Industries in Longlac, Ontario. The proposals were triggered when Bowater Incorporated was licenced to install 2 new sawmills in its timber limits in 2001 and 2002, and Longlac Wood Industries proposed to process birch fibre, which it had not previously used, for a new oriented strandboard production line.

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist contributed to both of these initiatives between 2002 and 2004, provided mineral resource potential maps of areas of interest to influence the site selection of candidate protected areas. This resulted in the exclusion of areas of mining lands and areas with significant mineral potential from the list of candidates for protection.

Work on the Longlac Wood Industries Room to Grow initiative is a little more advanced than the Bowater Incorporated initiative. It culminated in December 2004, with the release of 4 sites for public consideration as new protected areas. They include 1 new conservation reserve, additions to 2 existing conservation reserves (Onaman Lake and Kagianagami Lake) and 1 addition to a provincial park (Sedgman Lake). Representatives of the Partnership of Public Lands, the Ontario Prospectors Association, the Ontario Waterpower Association, and Longlac Wood Industries also worked with Ministry of Natural Resources to help select the candidates for protection.

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist facilitated the withdrawal of the 4 sites. They total approximately 14 700 hectares. They are located in areas of low to moderate mineral potential and do not conflict with any areas of mining lands.

To date, however, the sites have not been approved for regulation. Due to concerns regarding the potential effect of Longlac Wood Industries processing birch fibre on the wood supply for other mills in the area, the Minister of Natural Resources requested an independent review before making any decisions on the issuance of the forest resource processing facility licence. The findings of the independent review were made available to the public in

April 2005. The Ministry of Natural Resources then gave the company until March 31, 2006 to submit its final business plan.

Until such time as the Minister of Natural Resources makes a decision to allow Longlac Wood Industries to process birch fibre, there is no reason to regulate the new protected areas because the "Room to Grow" provision requiring new protected areas will not have been triggered.

OTHER PROTECTED AREAS

During 2005, the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and the Regional Land Use Geologists provided input to Ontario Parks and the Ministry of Natural Resources with regard to several parks and conservation reserves. Such work included reviewing new park management plans and statements of conservation interest (the equivalent of a management plan for conservation reserves) for sites established by the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy, and revised park management plans for long-established parks. It also included reviewing proposals for boundary adjustments for existing and proposed parks, providing information about mineral exploration and development in areas of interest, and making recommendations for changes to withdrawal orders to accommodate the proposals.

Forest Management Planning

For the purposes of forest management, Ontario's Crown forest is divided into geographic planning areas known as forest management units. Forest management plans are prepared for each of these units, and are renewed based on the five-year planning cycle. The locations of the forest management units, and the plan renewal year for each of the forest management units, are illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Locations of forest management units (FMUs) in Ontario, April 1, 2006.

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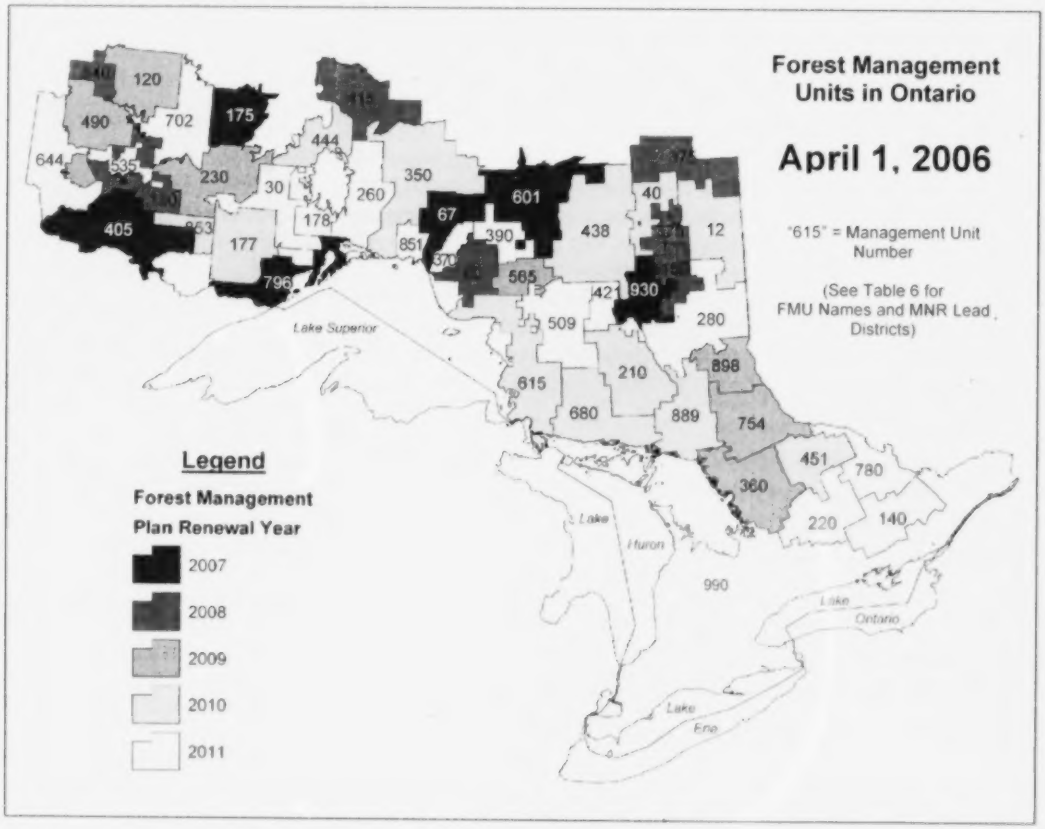

Figure 1. Locations of forest management units (FMUs) in Ontario, April 1, 2006.

There will be 47 forest management units in the province as of April 1st, 2006, down from 48 in 2005. The number of forest management units has dropped from 81 in 1995–1996, predominantly due to amalgamation of units. Changes to be made April 1, 2006 include the division of the Pineland–Martel Forest into two. One part remains as the Pineland Forest. The other part is to be merged with all of the former Superior Forest to form the new Martel Forest. In addition, the former Timiskaming Forest and the former Shiningtree Forest will be merged to form a newly expanded Timiskaming Forest.

Table 6 lists the names of the forest management units in numerical order according to the management unit number shown in Figure 1. Some management units straddle the boundaries between 2 of the Regional Land Use Geologists' areas, so are listed later in this document in the reports for both areas.

Table 6. List of forest management units in Ontario (2006–2007).

FMU #	FMU Name (1 – new for 2006)	Plan Period	Status	SFL Effective Date	MNR Lead District	RLUG Region
012	Iroquois Falls Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 1999	Cochrane	NE
030	Spruce River Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 1999	Thunder Bay	NW
040	Smooth Rock Falls Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 1995	Cochrane	NE
060	White River Forest	2003 – 2023	SFL	April 1, 2002	Wawa	NE
067	Big Pic Forest	2002 – 2022	SFL	April 1, 1996	Wawa	NE
120	Trout Lake Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	April 1, 1998	Red Lake	NW
130	Wabigoon Forest	2003 – 2023	SFL	April 1, 1997	Dryden	NW
140	Mazinaw–Lanark Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 2002	Bancroft	S
150	Nighthawk Forest	2003 – 2023	SFL	April 1, 2003	Timmins	NE
175	Caribou Forest	2002 – 2022	SFL	April 1, 1998	Sioux Lookout	NW
177	Dog River–Matawin Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 1998	Thunder Bay	NW
178	Black Sturgeon Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 2001	Nipigon	NW
210	Spanish Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 2001	Sudbury	NE
220	Bancroft–Minden Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 2001	Bancroft	S
230	English River Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	April 1, 1998	Dryden	NW
260	Lake Nipigon Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 2002	Nipigon	NW
280	Timiskaming Forest[1]	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 1997	Kirkland Lake	NE
350	Kenogami Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 1997	Nipigon	NW
360	French–Severn Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	April 1, 1998	Parry Sound	S
370	Black River Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 1996	Wawa	NE
375	Cochrane–Moose River	2003 – 2023	CR	n/a	Cochrane	NE
390	Nagagami Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 2003	Wawa	NE
405	Crossroute Forest	2002 – 2022	SFL	April 1, 2002	Fort Frances	NW
415	Ogoki Forest	2003 – 2023	SFL	April 1, 1996	Nipigon	NW
421	Pineland Forest[1]	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 2006	Chapleau	NE
438	Gordon Cosens Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 2001	Hearst	NE
444	Armstrong Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 1997	Thunder Bay	NW
451	Algonquin Park Forest	2005 – 2025	AFA	April 1, 1997	Algonquin Park	S
490	Whiskey Jack Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	April 1, 1997	Kenora	NW
509	Martel Forest[1]	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 2002	Chapleau	NE
535	Dryden Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 1998	Dryden	NW
565	Magpie Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	April 1, 1996	Wawa	NE
601	Hearst Forest	2002 – 2022	SFL	April 1, 2002	Hearst	NE

FMU #	FMU Name (¹ – new for 2006)	Plan Period	Status	SFL Effective Date	MNR Lead District	RLUG Region
615	Algoma Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 1997	Sault Ste. Marie	NE
644	Kenora Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 2002	Kenora	NW
680	Northshore Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 1998	Sault Ste. Marie	NE
702	Lac Seul Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 1998	Sioux Lookout	NW
754	Nipissing Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	April 1, 1996	North Bay	NE
780	Ottawa Valley Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 1999	Pembroke	S
796	Lakehead Forest	2002 – 2022	SFL	April 1, 1998	Thunder Bay	NW
840	Red Lake Forest	2003 – 2023	SFL	April 1, 1999	Red Lake	NW
851	Pic River Ojibway Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	April 1, 1998	Nipigon	NW
853	Sapawe Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 1998	Fort Frances	NW
889	Sudbury Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	April 1, 1998	Sudbury	NE
898	Temagami	2004 – 2024	CR	n/a	North Bay	NE
930	Romeo Malette Forest	2002 – 2022	SFL	April 1, 2003	Timmins	NE
990	Southern Ontario			n/a	various	S

Status:

- The information in this table is current as of January 26, 2006.
- Forest management units (FMU) are designated under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, Section 7.
- SFL – Sustainable Forest Licence
- CR – Crown Managed forest
- dSFL – deemed SFL
- AFA – Algonquin Forest Authority
- RLUG – Regional Land Use Geologist
- Information (SFL Name, Status, Plan Period, SFL Effective Date) current at date of list preparation.
- SFL Effective Date reflects the original SFL date or an SFL amendment date reflecting a boundary change.
- All management units effective as of April 1, 2006.

Planned April 1, 2006 Changes:

New FMU Name (FMU#)	Previous FMU Name(s) (FMU#)
- Pineland Forest (421)	- includes part of former Pineland–Martel Forest (765)
- Martel Forest (509)	- includes part of former Pineland–Martel Forest (765)
	- includes all of former Superior Forest (508)
- Timiskaming Forest (280)	- includes all of former Timiskaming Forest (610)
	- includes all of former Shiningtree Forest (868)

There are no projected management unit changes for April 1, 2007 or April 1, 2008

For information on a specific forest management unit or plan, please contact the District Manager at the Ministry of Natural Resources District indicated in the list.

Of the 47 forest management units, 43 have sustainable forest licences issued under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* to companies or partnerships. The province, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, continues to have management responsibility for the Cochrane–Moose River and Temagami forest management units, along with the Southern Ontario management unit, which consists largely of private land and is not subject to the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. The remaining forest management unit is the Algonquin Park Forest.

Each forest management unit requires a forest management plan to guide all forestry operations within the Crown forest in question over a rolling 20-year cycle that is reviewed every 5 years. This means, for example, that plans spanning the period 2001–2006 will be renewed in 2006 for the period 2006–2026, and plans spanning the years 2002–2022 will be renewed in 2007 for the period 2007–2027.

Forest management plans address all aspects of the forest harvest, including schedules for road construction, maintenance, and abandonment; stream crossings and their abandonment; timber harvesting; and silvicultural practices.

Forest management plans must have regard for all resource values including social (cultural, heritage, and tourism) and ecological (fish, wildlife, and environmental). The forestry industry must also have regard for, and according to Ministry of Natural Resources policies, shall consult with the holders of mining rights in the forest management unit regarding annual work schedules and potential impacts on exploration activities (e.g. disturbance of survey grids, trenches, drill casings, or claim lines). The *Mining Act* provides that anyone who causes such disturbances may have to provide compensation to the claimholder.

THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

The forest management planning process is a staged process, with numerous opportunities for public review and comment. Notices of each stage of the process of developing the plan for each forest management unit are posted on the Environmental Registry at

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/samples/search/Ebrquery_REG.htm

Notices for individual forest management units can be found on the Environmental Registry using the name of the forest management unit as a "keyword" search.

The stages of plan development are

- Stage one: invitation to participate – approximately 24 months before plan implementation;
- Stage two: first public information centre – approximately 16 months before plan implementation;
- Stage three: second public information centre: – approximately 9 months before plan implementation;
- Stage four: public review of draft plan – approximately 4 months before plan implementation; and
- Stage five: public review of plan approved by Ministry of Natural Resources – approximately 1 month before plan implementation.

The last opportunity for a member of the public to request a "bump-up" under the provisions of the *Environmental Bill of Rights* (i.e., seek a requirement for an individual environmental assessment of the forest management plan) is the last day of the public review of the plan approved by Ministry of Natural Resources.

Mineral sector representatives can provide input and voice concerns regarding the development of access routes; potential disturbance to mineral exploration assets; and the abandonment of roads and water crossings. It is important that the mineral sector take advantage of opportunities to ensure that its interests are conveyed as much as possible during development and implementation of forest management plans. At the same time, explorationists can use the plans when planning exploration programs that rely on using the forest access road network.

Opportunities to influence the content of forest management plans include attending the open houses, submitting comments about the options proposed in draft forest management plans, and through representing the mineral sector on local citizen's committees organized by Ministry of Natural Resources district offices. Completed plans for Ministry of Natural Resources regions are available for viewing during normal business hours at the ministry's regional offices in South Porcupine, Thunder Bay, and Peterborough. Each of the ministry's district offices also has copies of plans for its area available for viewing.

FOREST MANAGEMENT UNITS

Forest management units in Ontario (excluding the Southern Ontario Forest) range in approximate size from 210 000 hectares with 122 000 hectares of productive forest (Dryden Forest), to 1 861 000 hectares with 1 564 000 hectares of productive forest (Kenogami Forest). They include productive forest, nonproductive forest, non-forested land, and water. Areas classed as "productive forest" include production forest and protection forest. Production forest includes barren areas, scattered forest areas, recent cutovers and forested lands.

The average size of the forest management units (excluding the Southern Ontario Forest) as of April 1, 2006 is 725 000 hectares with 572 000 hectares of productive forest. Overall, there are approximately 33 583 000 hectares of managed forest in the province, with 26 293 000 hectares of that being productive. The numbers of forest management units of various size classes within the province are indicated in Table 7.

Table 7. Number of forest management units of various size classes in the province.

Crown-Managed Productive Forest (size class)	# of Management Units
100 001 to 300 000 hectares	9
300 001 to 500 000 hectares	14
500 001 to 700 000 hectares	8
700 001 to 900 000 hectares	10
More than 900 000 hectares	5
Total	46[1]

[1] Southern Ontario is not included in this total. It is an atypical management unit, located outside of the area covered by the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, and is primarily private land.

Parks, conservation reserves and areas of unmanaged Crown forests units are not included in the size calculations of the forest management units. In cases where parks and conservation reserves were established through the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy, the newly designated protected areas are being deducted from the total areas of managed forest and productive forest when the plans for forest management units are updated on their five-year cycle. This means that some areas of productive forest set aside as new parks or conservation reserves have not yet been deducted from the total areas of managed and productive forest in the province. The actual area of productive forest in the province is therefore something less than 26 293 000 hectares.

The number of forest management units has been steadily decreasing due to amalgamations since the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* was enacted in 1994. Reductions in the number of management units have generally taken place through the amalgamation of 2 or 3 existing management units. The amalgamations are done concurrently with the implementation of a forest management plan for the newly amalgamated management unit. The savings generated by amalgamation are primarily represented by forest planning and administrative efficiencies. Although further amalgamations are scheduled for April 1, 2006, no amalgamations are currently planned for 2007 or 2008. The overall change in the number of forest management units is shown in Table 8. Further rationalization may take place in the future.

Table 8. Change in the number of forest management units since 1995.

Date	Number of Forest Management Units	Date	Number of Forest Management Units
April 1, 1995	81	April 1, 2001	56
April 1, 1996	78	April 1, 2002	54
April 1, 1997	71	April 1, 2003	50
April 1, 1998	69	April 1, 2004	49
April 1, 1999	68	April 1, 2005	48
April 1, 2000	63	April 1, 2006	47

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

The peak year for forest management planning was 2004, since 12 plans scheduled for implementation in 2005 were under preparation along with 15 plans scheduled for implementation in 2006. Planning efforts for 6 five-year plans and 2 contingency plans to be implemented in 2007, and 5 plans to be implemented in 2008 are now underway. The new plans will be the first to be developed subject to the provisions of the newly revised forest management planning manual. The final columns of Table 9, Table 11, and Table 13 list the current status of the forest management plans in the northwest, northeast and southern Regional Land Use Geologists' respective areas.

The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and the Regional Land Use Geologists worked with other staff of the Resident Geologist Program to provide the Ministry of Natural Resources and forest management planning teams with information about the mineral potential and mining land status of areas where forestry management planning was underway during 2005. They also worked to convey information to mineral sector clients about opportunities to contribute to and learn about forest management planning in their areas, such as at forest management planning open houses. In particular, information was provided through handouts and posters at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada annual convention, at the northwestern and northeastern Ontario symposia sponsored by local prospectors' associations and at the annual Ontario Exploration and Geoscience Seminar sponsored by the Ontario Prospectors Association.

The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator also worked with Ministry of Natural Resources to ensure that claimholders and leaseholders whose properties might be affected by forestry activities such as harvesting, silviculture or spraying were notified of the activities planned during the year.

Although the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* requires that the Ministry of Natural Resources notify those holding claims and leases, the ministry does not have the addresses of claimholders on file. During 2005, the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator completed work with other branches of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to confirm that *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provisions allow the ministry to share address information for the purposes of the notifications. She also worked with Ministry of Natural Resources to prepare a process for forest management planning teams seeking address information, and responded to scores of requests from forest management planning teams across the province for claimholder and leaseholder addresses.

Northwest Region

As of April 1, 2006, 22 of the 47 Sustainable Forest Licence forest management units in the province are located in the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist's region, which is roughly coincident with the Ministry of Natural Resources' Northwest Region. The forest management units are listed in Table 9 in chronological order according to the date of the next forest management plan review. The Ministry of Natural Resources district that leads the forest management planning process is listed for each forest management unit, along with the current status of the plan.

Table 9. List of forest management units in the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist's region (2006–2007).

FMU #	FMU Name	Plan Period	Status	Plan Review Date	MNR Lead District	Plan Development
67	Big Pic Forest	2007 – 2017	SFL	2007	Wawa	ITP
175	Caribou Forest	2007 – 2008	SFL	2007	Sioux Lookout	CP–ITP
405	Crossroute Forest	2007 – 2017	SFL	2007	Fort Frances	Stage 3
796	Lakehead Forest	2007 – 2017	SFL	2007	Thunder Bay	ITP
415	Ogoki Forest	2008 – 2018	SFL	2008	Nipigon	In effect
840	Red Lake Forest	2008 – 2018	SFL	2008	Red Lake	ITP
130	Wabigoon Forest	2008 – 2018	SFL	2008	Dryden	ITP
230	English River Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	2009	Dryden	In effect
120	Trout Lake Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	2009	Red Lake	In effect
490	Whiskey Jack Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	2009	Kenora	In effect
444	Armstrong Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Thunder Bay	In effect
177	Dog River–Matawin Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Thunder Bay	In effect
350	Kenogami Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Nipigon	In effect
853	Sapawe Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Fort Frances	In effect
370	Black River Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Wawa	Stage 4
178	Black Sturgeon Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Nipigon	Stage 4
535	Dryden Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Dryden	Stage 5
644	Kenora Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Kenora	Stage 4

FMU #	FMU Name	Plan Period	Status	Plan Review Date	MNR Lead District	Plan Development
702	Lac Seul Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Sioux Lookout	Stage 4
260	Lake Nipigon Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Nipigon	Stage 4
851	Pic River Ojibway Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Nipigon	Stage 4
30	Spruce River Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Thunder Bay	Stage 5
Status:						
- Forest management units are designated under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, Section 7						
- SFL – Sustainable Forest Licence						
- CP-ITP – Invitation to participate in the development of a contingency plan to be in effect pending approval of the plan - ITP – Invitation to participate in the planning process - In effect – Plan has been reviewed and adopted - Stage 3 – the new plan is at Stage 3 of plan review - Stage 4 – the new plan is at Stage 4 of plan review - Stage 5 – the new plan is at Stage 5 of plan review - N/A – not applicable						
- Information (SFL Name, Status, Plan Period) current at date of list preparation						
- New forest management plans are normally implemented in April of the year listed as the "Plan Review Date". Planning generally starts 24 months prior to the implementation date						
- All management units effective as of April 1, 2006; plan status current as of January 26, 2006.						

In 2005, 4 forest management plans were approved and implemented in the Northwest Region. Forest management plans are being finalized for 8 forest management units for approval in 2006. Work has begun on 4 forest management plans for implementation in 2007. They are listed, along with the Sustainable Forest Licence holder, in Table 10.

Table 10. List of 2007 northwest forest management plans and their Sustainable Forest Licence holders.

Forest Management Plan	Sustainable Forest Licence Holder
Big Pic Forest	Marathon Pulp Inc.
Caribou Forest	Bowater Canadian Forest Products Inc.
Crossroute Forest	Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada
Lakehead Forest	Greenmantle Forest Inc.

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist was named as "plan advisor" to the 2007 northwest forest management planning teams, and also monitored the development of the 2006 forest management plans. He provided the planning teams with timely information and support relating to planning decisions that might affect the mineral sector. He also gave a presentation about the mining sequence and mineral sector interests to the Crossroute Forest, Caribou Forest and Big Pic Forest planning teams.

In addition to contributing to the planning process for forest management plans currently under development, the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist responded to various information requests and notifications. The majority of inquiries related to road access issues including the removal of water crossings and road abandonment. The Regional Land Use Geologist facilitated meetings between mineral industry representatives, Ministry of Natural Resources District Staff and Sustainable Forest Licence holders in order to develop solutions to road access issues.

Solutions were developed whereby continued access for the minerals industry was secured for the duration of exploration programs by negotiating for the transfer of ownership and liability of the road and water crossings from the Sustainable Forest Licence holder to the exploration company; and identifying alternate access corridors.

Northeast Region

As of April 1, 2006, 21 of the 47 Sustainable Forest Licence forest management units in the province are located in the northeast Regional Land Use Geologist's region. This decrease from 22 forest management units in 2005 is due to the merger of the Shiningtree Forest with the Timiskaming Forest. In addition, part of the former Pineland–Martel Forest was severed to stand alone as the Pineland Forest, and the remainder of the Pineland–Martel Forest was merged with the Superior Forest to form the Martel Forest.

The forest management units are listed in Table 11, in chronological order according to the date of the next forest management plan review. The Ministry of Natural Resources district that leads the forest management planning process is listed for each forest management unit, along with the current status of the plan.

Table 11. List of forest management units in the northeast Regional Land Use Geologist's region (2006–2007).

FMU #	FMU Name ([1] = new for 2006)	Plan Period	Status	Plan Review Date	MNR Lead District	Plan Development
67	Big Pic Forest	2007 – 2027	SFL	2007	Wawa	ITP
601	Hearst Forest	2007 – 2017	SFL	2007	Hearst	ITP
930	Romeo Malette Forest	2007 – 2009	SFL	2007	Timmins	CP–ITP
375	Cochrane–Moose River	2003 – 2023	CR	N/A	Cochrane	In effect
150	Nighthawk Forest	2003 – 2023	SFL	2008	Timmins	In effect
60	White River Forest	2003 – 2023	SFL	2008	Wawa	In effect
565	Magpie Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	2009	Wawa	In effect
754	Nipissing Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	2009	North Bay	In effect
898	Temagami	2004 – 2024	CR	N/A	North Bay	In effect
615	Algoma Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Sault Ste. Marie	In effect
438	Gordon Cosens Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Hearst	In effect
12	Iroquois Falls Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Cochrane	In effect
680	Northshore Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Sault Ste. Marie	In effect
40	Smooth Rock Falls Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Cochrane	In effect
210	Spanish Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Sudbury	In effect
889	Sudbury Forest	2005 – 2025	SFL	2010	Sudbury	In effect
370	Black River Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Wawa	Stage 4
390	Nagagami Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Wawa	Stage 4
421	Pineland Forest[1]	2006 – 2026	dSFL/SFL	N/A / 2011	Chapleau	Stage 4
509	Martel Forest[1]	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Chapleau	Stage 4
280	Timiskaming Forest[1]	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Kirkland Lake	Stage 5

Status:

- Forest management units are designated under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, Section 7
- SFL – Sustainable Forest Licence; CR – Crown-managed; dSFL – deemed SFL
- CP–ITP – Invitation to participate in the development of a contingency plan to be in effect pending approval of the plan
- ITP – Invitation to participate in the planning process
- In effect – Plan has been reviewed and adopted
- Stage 4 – the new plan is at Stage 4 of plan review
- Stage 5 – the new plan is at Stage 5 of plan review
- N/A – not applicable
- Information (SFL Name, Status, Plan Period) current at date of list preparation
- New forest management plans are normally implemented in April of the year listed as the "Plan Review Date". Planning generally starts 24 months prior to the implementation date
- All management units effective as of April 1, 2006; plan status current as of January 26, 2006

Planned April 1, 2006 Changes:	
[1]New FMU Name (FMU #)	Previous FMU Name(s) (FMU #)
- Pineland Forest (421)	- includes part of former Pineland–Martel Forest (765)
- Martel Forest (509)	- includes part of former Pineland–Martel Forest (765)
	- includes all of former Superior Forest (508)
- Timiskaming Forest (280)	- includes all of former Timiskaming Forest (610)
	- includes all of former Shiningtree Forest (868)
There are no projected management unit changes for April 1, 2007 or April 1, 2008	

In 2005, the forest management plans for 7 Sustainable Forest Licence holders were approved and implemented in the Northeast Region. Forest management plans are being finalized for 5 forest management units for approval in 2006. Plans are also being developed for 3 forest management units for implementation in 2007.

In northeastern Ontario, the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator made presentations to planning teams working on plans to be implemented in 2006 that had not had a presentation in 2004. She also provided the planning teams with timely information and support relating to planning decisions that might affect the mineral sector, and made arrangements for information to be supplied to planning teams beginning to work on 2007 forest management plans.

The plans being developed for implementation in 2007 are listed, along with the Sustainable Forest Licence holder, in Table 12.

Table 12. List of 2007 northeast forest management plans and their Sustainable Forest Licence holders.

Forest Management Plan	Sustainable Forest Licence Holder
Big Pic Forest	Marathon Pulp Inc.
Hearst Forest	Hearst Forest Management Inc.
Romeo Malette Forest	Malette Inc.

Southern Region

As of April 1, 2006, 6 of the 47 forest management units in the province are located in the southern Regional Land Use Geologist's area. Two of the 6 are atypical. One is the Algonquin Park Forest, managed by the Algonquin Forest Authority, which is an Ontario Crown Agency charged with the responsibility for sustainable forest management in Algonquin Provincial Park. The other is the Southern Ontario Forest Management Unit. It is outside of the Area of the Undertaking covered by the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, and is primarily made up of private land.

The locations of the forest management units are illustrated in Figure 1. They are also listed in Table 13, in chronological order according to the date of the next forest management plan review. The Ministry of Natural Resources district that leads the forest management planning process is listed for each forest management unit, along with the current status of the plan. The last column of Table 13 lists the current status of the forest management plans.

Table 13. List of forest management units in the southern Regional Land Use Geologist's region (2006–2007).

FMU #	FMU Name	Plan Period	Status	Plan Review Date	MNR Lead District	Plan Development
360	French/Severn Forest	2004 – 2024	SFL	2009	Parry Sound	In effect
451	Algonquin Park Forest	2005 – 2025	AFA	2010	Algonquin Park	In effect
220	Bancroft–Minden Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Bancroft	Stage 4
140	Mazinaw–Lanark Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Bancroft	Stage 4
780	Ottawa Valley Forest	2006 – 2026	SFL	2011	Pembroke	Stage 4
990	Southern Ontario			n/a	Various	N/A

Status:
- Forest management units are designated under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, Section 7
- SFL – Sustainable Forest Licence, AFA – Algonquin Forest Authority
- In effect – Plan has been reviewed and adopted - Stage 4 – the new plan is at Stage 4 of plan review - N/A – Not Applicable
- Information (SFL Name, Status, Plan Period) current at date of list preparation
- New forest management plans are normally implemented in April of the year listed as the "Plan Review Date". Planning generally starts 24 months prior to the implementation date
- All management units effective as of April 1, 2006; plan status current as of January 26, 2006

Three plans are currently at Stage 4 in the planning process. Unless application is made at Stage 5 for an individual Environmental Assessment for these plans, they will be implemented on April 1, 2006. Two units are currently in their working cycle and the final unit, Southern Ontario, is privately held, so it does not have an overall forest management plan.

Northern Boreal Initiative

The Ministry of Natural Resources established the Northern Boreal Initiative in 2001 to address the expressed interest of several northern First Nation communities and the province in new, sustainable commercial forestry opportunities. These opportunities will expand the area where forestry activities may occur, and can lead to First Nation communities being the holder of new Sustainable Forest Licences. The areas in question are north of the area described as the Area of the Undertaking for the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management on Crown lands in Ontario.

The Northern Boreal Initiative aims to provide several northern First Nation communities with the opportunity to take a leading role in the development of new, sustainable commercial forestry opportunities, including working collaboratively with the Ministry of Natural Resources on planning for such opportunities. It also supports the shared goal of the First Nation communities and the Ministry of Natural Resources of sustainable development of natural resources in northern Ontario, as well as the shared objective of ecosystem sustainability.

Steps involved in the Northern Boreal Initiative include land use planning, information management, environmental assessment, forest management planning and business planning. Ontario's commitment to the Northern Boreal Initiative is founded in the 1999 Ontario Forest Accord, which provides support for orderly northern development initiatives, and the Building Aboriginal Economies Strategy, which encourages partnership arrangements such as the Northern Boreal Initiative to assist First Nations with economic development.

In conjunction with any new timber harvesting (i.e., increase in fibre capacity that takes place) the Room to Grow sharing agreement of the Ontario Forest Accord requires a concomitant increase in protected area. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is working to ensure that the mineral potential of candidate protected areas is understood and considered as land use planning decisions are made. The Provincially Significant Mineral Potential mineral resource assessment methodology and up-to-date claim maps are being used in the process of selecting potential new protected areas.

The approach to providing strategic direction for lands and resources in areas that are part of the Northern Boreal Initiative is "Community-based Land Use Planning". It will consider forestry as one of many interests, allowing communities to address and find a balance among protection, conservation, traditional and livelihood uses, and development. The described approach encompasses 3 planning scales.

- community-centred
- landscape-scale
- provincial context

Outcomes from the Northern Boreal Initiative will result in an expansion of the portion of Ontario covered by an approved land use strategy.

NORTHERN BOREAL INITIATIVE PROJECTS

The Northern Boreal Initiative is aimed at promoting greater self-sufficiency and prosperity for northern First Nations communities by providing resource-based economic development opportunities. Four First Nation communities are currently actively involved in the Northern Boreal Initiative planning process, with Pikangikum and its surrounding Whitefeather Forest, located north of Red Lake, being most advanced. Three more First Nation communities are beginning work on their own community-based plans.

Some funding for communities is provided by the Forestry Futures Trust. The trust was established in 1994 under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. The Trust has specific purposes defined by the act, including the provision of funding for

- silviculture and renewal where fire has damaged or killed forest resources;
- silviculture and renewal where a forest resource licence holder is insolvent;
- intensive forest stand management and pest control;
- other purposes as may be specified by the minister.

The trust is administered by the Forestry Futures Committee, made up of four members and a chairperson appointed by the Minister of Natural Resources. Members must not be employees of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The committee calls for projects, approves projects and monitors project achievements.

In 2005, the government of Ontario provided a $2 000 000 grant to the trust to be used for the development of project proposals related to land use planning and forestry in the far north. The trust will accept applications for funding from First Nations communities that are working with the Ministry of Natural Resources' Northern Boreal Initiative.

Cat Lake

Cat Lake First Nation, an isolated community located approximately 130 kilometres northwest of Pickle Lake, was funded by Forestry Futures Trust in 2005. The community is beginning to compile background information regarding the ecological and other values present in the area.

Constance Lake

The Constance Lake First Nation, which is located a few kilometres north of Highway 11 and approximately 35 kilometres northwest of Hearst, is beginning to compile background information regarding the ecological and other values present in the area.

Eabametoong

The community of Eabametoong (Fort Hope), east of Pickle Lake, has begun a Northern Boreal Initiative project. In 2005, the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist corresponded with consultants representing the First Nation and offered assistance in compiling geological and exploration data covering the planning area.

Mishkeegogamang

The community of Mishkeegogamang (Osnaburgh), south of Pickle Lake, has begun a Northern Boreal Initiative project. In 2005, the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist corresponded with consultants representing the First Nation and offered assistance in compiling geological and exploration data covering the planning area.

Moose Cree

The community of Moose Cree, south of Moosonee, has also embarked on a process to prepare a community-based land use plan. Part of the intent of that land use plan will be to develop a protocol for mineral development within their traditional territory.

During 2005, the Draft Terms of Reference for the Moose Cree Planning Area planning team were prepared, and an initial meeting was held to discuss the stages in the land use planning process. Amongst the early stages will be additional work on the compilation and translation of background information, development of a "consultation booklet", a series of Open Houses, and community meetings with adjacent First Nations. A notice will be posted on the Environmental Registry to advise interest parties when this work is being done.

Pikangikum

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist has contributed to Pikangikum's land use planning process since its inception. In 2005, he attended a number of meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Taiga Consultants, and Elders from the First Nation to review the progress of the land use planning process. He provided information and feedback to them on subjects of interest, including the mineral exploration and development matrix being developed for the land use plan, and facilitated the completion of a mineral resource assessment for the Whitefeather Forest and adjacent lands, and its verification by the Red Lake District Geologist. He also presented information regarding the bedrock geology of the area and its mineral potential to the planning team.

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist also used integrated data from the Ministry of Natural Resources natural heritage values maps and the mineral resource assessment maps to demonstrate the potential impact of candidates for new protected areas on future mineral exploration and development within the Whitefeather Forest. In addition, he worked with the First Nation and Ministry of Natural Resources to refine boundaries of candidate protected areas to ensure minimal impact on areas of significant mineral potential.

All of the natural and cultural heritage values identified, including the mineral values, are being considered together as the parties determine the best option for a protected area strategy for the new Whitefeather Forest. The principle tenet of "community-based land use planning" is that the First Nation will drive the planning decisions. The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist has stressed—and the First Nation recognizes—that lands with high mineral potential are a possible future economic driver for the community.

During 2005 it was announced that portions of the Whitefeather Forest planning area were being considered for inclusion in an United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site. The candidate site, Woodland Caribou/Atikaki Provincial Parks/Accord First Nations would be part of UNESCO's Boreal Forest World Heritage Site system. The proposal is being championed by 3 First Nations in Manitoba: Poplar River First Nation; Pauingassi First Nation; and Bloodvein First Nation. It has been endorsed by the Province of Manitoba.

The Whitefeather Forest Planning team reviewed the proposal and decided to accept the concept. They are in the process of evaluating which portions of the planning area should be put forward for inclusion in the World Heritage Site.

Slate Falls

Slate Falls First Nation, an isolated community located approximately 130 kilometres north of Sioux Lookout, was funded by Forestry Futures Trust in 2005. The community is beginning to compile background information regarding the ecological and other values present in the area.

Other Crown Land Planning Initiatives

In addition to the activities outlined above, the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and Regional Land Use Geologists were involved in a number of other initiatives linked to Crown land use planning matters and communications initiatives during the year.

The work included responding to requests submitted subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Environmental Bill of Rights*, and preparing reports, slide sets, briefing materials, etc. for audiences within and outside of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. It also included monitoring items of interest related to land use on behalf of the mineral sector, as announced on the Environmental Registry and elsewhere, and advising representatives of the local associations when such items were identified.

These items included draft regulations and legislation developed by other ministries, and proposals made by private sector interests that might constrain access to, or the availability of, areas of high mineral potential for exploration and development. Where appropriate, these initiatives were reviewed, and options for avoiding impacts on the mineral sector were supplied to those working on the plans in question.

CROWN LAND USE ATLAS

The Ministry of Natural Resources has made its Crown Land Use Atlas and associated land use policies available for public viewing on line at

http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca/

The atlas covers the Area of the Undertaking as identified under *the Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, an area roughly coincident with those portions of Ontario south of the 51st parallel that are underlain by Precambrian rocks. The Ministry of Natural Resources plans to extend the area covered by the atlas in the future.

Explorationists are strongly advised to consult it to determine land use policies for their areas of interest, since the Land Use Atlas is the authoritative source of area-specific land use direction under the *Public Lands Act* for Crown lands in the area it covers. Exploration and/or development plans may be influenced or constrained by some of the policies in the Land Use Atlas. Area-specific policies include controls on existing access routes, restrictions on the development of new access, and prohibitions on new quarries in certain general use areas.

The policies in the atlas were originally laid out in

- Ministry of Natural Resources District Land Use Guidelines of 1983;
- area-specific land use plans such as the Madawaska Highlands Land Use Plan (released in 1997);
- the Ontario's Living Legacy land use strategy.

The Regional Land Use Geologists monitored proposed changes to the Land Use Atlas through postings on the Environmental Registry in 2005, and provided comments on a number of proposed changes. One change to the Land Use Atlas proposed in 2005 is worth special mention. Ministry of Natural Resources announced plans to amend the management direction for an area of Crown land along the western margin of Algonquin Park. The impetus behind this action is the need to control access into waterways leading into the park.

The area includes a number of industrial mineral occurrences including the Butt Township graphite deposit (also known as the Cal Graphite deposit) and several areas that are licenced under the *Aggregate Resources Act*. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines was therefore concerned that the change may make it more difficult to access, explore, and develop mineral resources in the area. In addition, the ministry was concerned that claimholders in the area who might be affected by the change had not been directly notified during the public consultation process regarding the proposed change.

As a result of input provided by the Resident Geologist Program, including the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and the southern Regional Land Use Geologist, holders of mining claims and leases were contacted

directly through the public consultation process, and the period for responding was extended accordingly. The proposed new policy was revised to make it clear that clauses linked to "dispositions" refer to dispositions subject to the *Public Lands Act*, and not the *Mining Act*. In addition, other options to address mineral-related interests are being considered as the new management strategy for the area is developed.

REVIEW OF PROTECTED AREAS LEGISLATION

In 2004, the Ministry of Natural Resources initiated a review of the legislation governing protected areas in the province. These items include the *Provincial Parks Act*, which governs parks; *Public Lands Act Regulation 805/94*, which governs conservation reserves; and the *Wilderness Areas Act*, which governs a few small wilderness areas.

The ministry is seeking to update the legislation and strengthen the protection of natural and cultural heritage features once the review is completed. The objectives of the review, which were reflected in the legislative proposals outlined as a basis for the review and support the goal of strengthening protection, are to

- recognize that ecological integrity is of primary importance, while recognizing that compatible activities can occur where appropriate;
- include in the legislation policies that support sound management of protected areas and promote protection of ecological integrity;
- include in the legislation measures that will enhance transparency and public accountability, such as mandatory reporting on the state of protected areas.

Following the public review process of 2004 and consultation with First Nations, the Ministry of Natural Resources compiled the comments received, and made changes to the proposed legislation to reflect the comments. One recurrent theme in the comments sent by members of the public was that "mining should not be allowed in parks". This is with reference to the fact that the current *Parks Act* allows mineral exploration subject to the provisions of an Exploratory Licence of Occupation in parks designated by regulation.

A draft of the proposed new act was circulated to the Ontario Parks Board and to partner ministries for review and comment during early 2005. The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator worked with representatives of the ministry's Policy Secretariat to assess the proposed new legislation in the context of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines mandate, and to provide comments to Ministry of Natural Resources about the proposed new legislation.

The revised act, known as the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2005* ultimately received first reading in the Ontario Legislature on October 25, 2005. It is based on the eight legislative proposals that were the subject of public consultation in 2004, and will be subject to review and possible amendment by the Legislature through the prescribed legislative process.

ONTARIO BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

The Ministry of Natural Resources led the development of a biodiversity strategy for Ontario, beginning in October 2004. It is intended to provide the context for government, stakeholder and public initiatives relating to protected areas, and sustainable natural resource management, stewardship, and conservation.

The strategy was developed under tight timelines, with input from partner ministries, other government agencies, First Nations, conservation groups, the agriculture and other sectors, scientists, industry and the public. Initial meetings to announce the plan to develop the strategy were held with partner ministries and representatives of sectoral interest groups, including the Ontario Prospectors Association and the Ontario Mining Association.

Two workshops to address the development of the Ontario Biodiversity Strategy were held in early 2005. Representatives of partner ministries and interest groups were subsequently involved in writing and review the biodiversity strategy. For example, the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator was a member of one of the writing teams, and the southern Regional Land Use Geologist reviewed and commented on the draft strategy.

The draft strategy was posted on the Environmental Registry for public review and comment on April 25, 2005. Following the public consultation period, during which 35 responses were received, final revisions to the strategy were made, and the Ontario Biodiversity Strategy, entitled "*Protecting What Sustains Us, Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2005*" was released on June 21st.

A 21-member council will lead and coordinate the implementation of the strategy. The Ontario Biodiversity Council will be headed by an independent chair and will report to the public each year on the progress of implementation. Members include representatives of stakeholders, First Nations, the Minister of Natural Resources and members of the public. There is currently representation from both the Ontario Mining Association and the Aggregate Producers' Association of Ontario on the council.

RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES

The Ontario government is committed to generating at least 5% of the province's electricity from renewable sources by 2010. In support of this goal, it has been promoting new wind power and hydroelectric initiatives, and releasing Crown land sites for developments to increase the amount of energy coming from renewable sources by 1350 MW by 2007.

As a result of these initiatives, a number of areas were withdrawn from staking in 2004 while applicants assessed the sites' merits as locations for wind power generation. The Regional Land Use Geologists discussed the withdrawals with Ministry of Natural Resources representatives, in order to be able to respond to queries from mineral sector clients about the purpose and duration of the withdrawals.

The Regional Land Use Geologists also attended open houses linked to the development of a new policy for the generation of electricity from water power in the province. Ministry of Natural Resources accepted expressions of interest in identified water power sites in 2004, and applications for new sites until March 9, 2005. Some applications resulted in some areas being withdrawn from staking while feasibility studies are completed.

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist met and corresponded with representatives of the Township of Shuniah and consultants Wardrop Engineering concerning a proposed wind power project northeast of Thunder Bay. Maps showing the geology and mineral occurrences of the area were provided to the consultant to identify areas of high mineral potential. Discussions with the consultant indicated that it would be possible to mitigate impacts on the high mineral potential lands during the planning process.

TEMAGAMI INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2004, the Ministry of Natural Resources initiated an "integrated management planning" project for 5 backcountry provincial wilderness and waterway parks, 8 conservation reserves adjacent to the parks, and intervening areas of Crown land in the Temagami area. The planning process will also result in a Crown land recreation plan, developed to address specific management issues related to recreational use of Crown land within the boundary of the Temagami Land Use Planning Area. The land use directions in the approved Temagami Land Use Plan are guiding the planning process.

In 2004, the Ministry of Natural Resources prepared a "Background Document", which it distributed for public review and comment in 2005. The document, which summarizes a range of information about the about the area, is intended to serve as a basis for evaluating management issues and opportunities. It will form part of the preliminary and approved management plans to be developed through the integrated planning process.

The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator reviewed the Background Document, and provided comments including recommendations for corrections in the discussion of bedrock geology. She also notified local prospectors' associations to advise them of public information sessions that were being held in communities in northeastern Ontario in August and September to introduce the Background Document and invite public comments.

The Background Document and associated maps are available on line at

http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/tema_planning.html

Following the public information sessions, the planning team worked to identify issues and opportunities relating to a variety of topics including

- access;
- adjacent land uses and activities;
- social and economic opportunities;
- protection of park values and resources;
- rehabilitation and restoration of ecosystems;
- visitor management and customer service.

A preliminary list of issues and opportunities will be completed by April 2006, following which the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator will take part in workshop-based discussions that will lead to the finalisation of draft issues and opportunities to be released for public review and comment. Although the planning process is focussed on the protected areas and ancillary recreational use of adjacent lands, the possibility that management plans may constrain access land uses and activities on adjacent unregulated areas is a concern.

CROWN LAND CAMPING

Because of concerns in northeastern Ontario about residents who were setting up camp at desirable Crown land locations and staying throughout the summer, thereby effectively prohibiting others from gaining access to the sites, the Ministry of Natural Resources recently revised its policy on Crown land camping. Although residents are still allowed to engage in recreational camping for an unlimited period of time on Crown land, there is now a provision restricting their use of any one location to a 21-day period. There is a minimum move of 100 m between campsites required for campers who wish to camp for more than 21 days.

Note, however, that this policy does not impact mineral sector clients working on their own mining claims, since Section 50 (2) of the *Mining Act* provides for the holder of a mining claim the right to enter upon, use and occupy such part or parts thereof as are necessary for the purpose of prospecting and the efficient exploration, development and operation of the mines, minerals and mining rights therein.

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS

Work on the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation's Ontario Trails Plan, which began in 2004, continued into 2005. This strategy is a component of an initiative known as ACTIVE 2010, intended to get Ontarians moving and thereby fitter and healthier. Trails will be planned, linked, created and better organized to allow Ontarians to get moving. Since the trails include walking, hiking, biking, equestrian, all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile trails, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation needed to understand how trails are used by different groups now.

The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and the southern Regional Land Use Geologist attended a multi-stakeholder workshop to address the current use of trails and the needs of various users, and provided input into the initiative at various stages. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' goal is to ensure ongoing access to trail systems for explorationists in much the same way that ongoing access to recreational snowmobile trails has been assured for mineral sector workers through the provisions in the *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act*.

LOCAL CITIZENS' COMMITTEES

Ministry of Natural Resources districts across the province have "Local Citizens' Committees" to assist and advise them with regard to Crown land use planning and management. Most committees include representation from various sectoral and private interest groups, including forestry, tourism, and environmental organizations. There is representation from the mineral sector on some committees, but not all.

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist made presentations to the members of the Manitouwadge and Sioux Lookout Local Citizens' Committees in 2005 in an effort to make all members more aware of the interests and

concerns of the mineral sector. The presentations outlined the mineral exploration process and mineral sector interests in the forest.

Staff of the land use group have been working to recruit, train and offer ongoing support to new mineral sector representatives (prospectors, geologists, etc.) for the committees, since mineral sector representatives can act as the voice of the industry during discussions of various aspects of Crown land planning and management, including forest management plans, Annual Work Schedules, and access controls. They can point out problematic situations as they arise, and contact the appropriate Regional Land Use Geologist when further information and/or support in resolving problems is needed. At the same time, they learn about plans for Crown land use management in their areas of interest, and build networks with Ministry of Natural Resources staff and other workers in their areas.

In November 2005, the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and the Regional Land Use Geologists prepared a list of all Local Citizens Committees across the province, and committees seeking mineral sector representation were identified. This information is being shared with the Ontario Prospectors Association and local prospecting associations in an effort to ensure that there is a mineral sector representative on each committee.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Development on private land in Ontario is subject to the provisions of the *Planning Act* and the Provincial Policy Statement, enacted under Section 3 of the *Planning Act*, and is managed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Members of the land use group work closely with planners from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, municipal planners, and planning consultants as one of the "partner ministries" that contribute to the municipal planning process.

This work helps ensure that planning decisions are consistent with the provisions of the Provincial Policy Statement relating to mineral resources, mining operations and mining-related hazards, and that responses from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to planning applications are consistent province wide. Depending upon the location, municipal planning decisions may apply to lands where the surface and mining rights are held jointly as patented lands. They may also apply to lands where the surface rights are patented, while the mining rights are held by the Crown. The Crown mineral rights remain open for mineral exploration, claim staking, and development, subject to the provisions of the *Mining Act* in most situations where only the surface rights are patented.

There were numerous important land use planning initiatives in Ontario during 2005. Some, such as development of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Management Plan, were focussed specifically on southern Ontario, while others, such as the March implementation of the revised Provincial Policy Statement, were pan-provincial.

In support of municipal planning processes, the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator acts as the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' representative on the Planning System Committee. The committee is an inter-ministerial working group including representatives from the ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Northern Development and Mines, Natural Resources, Environment, Culture, Transportation, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Conservation Ontario (the network of 36 conservation authorities in Ontario). During 2005, the committee focused on training for government and municipal planners relating to the revised Provincial Policy Statement, and the *Greenbelt Act*.

The southern Regional Land Use Geologist is a member of the Provincial Policy Statement Implementation Committee. It, too, is an inter-ministerial working group including representatives of various partner ministries. One of the committee's main objectives in 2005 was to develop support documentation to help planners better understand the revised Provincial Policy Statement. As part of this work, he prepared a draft information sheet on mineral-related interests and mining-related hazards for review by committee members in late 2005. It will be released along with information sheets about other interests in 2006. In addition, he reviewed and prepared draft updates of Comprehensive Guideline documents originally released in 1996. It is anticipated that these documents will be finalized and released in 2006.

Ultimately, the work of both committees helps to ensure that provincial interests are considered during municipal planning; that the *Planning Act* is implemented efficiently and effectively; and that planners from ministries and

municipalities across the province are aware of the information and advice that is available to help them make their planning decisions.

Provincial Policy Statement

The Provincial Policy Statement contains provisions that act as a *de facto* mineral policy in Ontario. The relevant provisions are intended to ensure that

- minerals, mineral aggregate and petroleum resources are protected for long-term use;
- mineral and mineral aggregate mining operations and petroleum resource operations are protected from development and activities that would preclude or hinder their expansion or continued use, or be incompatible for reasons of public health, public safety or environmental impact;
- development and activities that would preclude or hinder the establishment of new operations or access to resources are limited in areas on or adjacent to known mineral deposits, mineral aggregate resources or petroleum resources, or areas of significant mineral and petroleum potential.

When the Provincial Policy Statement was revised in 1996, a direction that it be reviewed every 5 years and changed if needed was established. Accordingly, a review of the Provincial Policy Statement was begun in 2001. The review was to assess whether or not the Provincial Policy Statement was effective in ensuring that the planning directions advocated by the province were being followed. The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and Regional Land Use Geologists were involved along with representatives of other partner ministries in this assessment process. In addition, representatives of the public were invited to comment on whether or not the Provincial Policy Statement should be changed.

The decision made following the review was that changes were needed. A process was established whereby representatives of sectoral interests were invited to recommend changes to the various provisions in the Provincial Policy Statement. Representatives of the Ontario Prospectors Association, the Ontario Mining Association, and the Aggregate Producers Association of Ontario took part in these discussions along with the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator during 2002.

During 2003, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing worked through the various recommendations made during the review process, and drafted revised provisions for the Provincial Policy Statement. The proposed revisions were circulated to partner ministries for review and comment. The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and representatives of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mine's Corporate Policy Secretariat reviewed the proposed revisions and provided comments to the project team.

After reviewing the comments from all partner ministries, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing released a draft revision of the Provincial Policy Statement in mid-2004. At the time of the release, the ministry also organized a series of public information sessions and focused workshops across the province to allow the public at large and various sectoral interests to review and comment on the proposed changes. The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and Regional Land Use Geologists attended the public information sessions and workshops, and acted as "subject matter experts" when discussion points needing clarification arose.

Further changes to the Provincial Policy Statement were proposed as a result of the public information sessions and workshops. The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and representatives of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mine's Corporate Policy Secretariat reviewed the new revisions and provided additional comments to the project team.

The final version of the updated Provincial Policy Statement was released on February 21, 2005, and went into effect on March 1, 2005. It is available on line at

http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_23137_1.html

One of the changes considered during the review of the Provincial Policy Statement would have essentially prohibited mineral development in provincially significant wetlands in central Ontario, regardless of whether the

development would affect the wetland or not. Due to the involvement of Ministry of Northern Development and Mines staff, however, an exception was made for mineral-related activities. The Provincial Policy Statement now applies the same provisions to advanced exploration and mining developments in areas of provincially significant wetlands regardless of where the activity is located on the Precambrian Shield, the James Bay Lowlands, or the Hudson Bay Lowlands.

Municipal Planning Initiatives

The year 2005 was a very active one from a municipal planning perspective. Table 14 provides a summary of the land use group's contributions to, and review of, planning instruments. The types of planning instruments vary from region to region due to the different levels of authority delegated by the provincial government to municipal planning authorities across Ontario, and the different planning-related constraints in different areas.

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist reviewed and commented on 5 Draft and 2 final Official Plans and 3 Official Plan Amendments for various municipalities, along with 12 Consents (severance applications), and 4 Draft Plans of Subdivision. He also contributed to the 7 Official Plans currently being developed, and worked with staff from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing other partner ministries to resolve planning-related issues in several other areas.

Table 14. Planning documents reviewed during 2005.

Planning Documents/Instruments	Region		
	Northwest	Northeast	Southern
Draft Official Plans	5	0	10
Final Official Plans	2	2	1
Official Plan Data Requests	7	0	7
Official Plan 5-Year Reviews	2	0	1
Official Plan Amendments	3	3	3
Draft Plans of Subdivision	4	1	0
Consents (Severances)	12	15	0
Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendments	n/a	n/a	4
Waste Management Reviews	0	0	1
Major Transportation Reviews	0	0	2

In the absence of a northeast Regional Land Use Geologist, the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator reviewed 2 final Official Plans and 3 draft Official Plans in 2005. She also reviewed 15 applications for Consents (severances) and a Draft plan of Subdivision, and commented on two sales of surplus lands under consideration by municipal governments.

The southern Regional Land Use Geologist reviewed and commented on 11 Draft and Final Official Plans during 2005. In addition to official plans, he reviewed a number of other planning documents. It is anticipated that 2006 will be equally busy as municipalities update their official plans to meet the requirements under the "new" Provincial Policy Statement and other planning initiatives such as the *Greenbelt Act* and the proposed *Clean Water Act*.

Planning-Related Training and Events

The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and Regional Land Use Geologists contributed to training regarding municipal planning across the province in 2005. The training focussed on the changes to the Provincial Policy Statement, and the implications of those changes for planners. Some training also addressed the *Greenbelt Act*. In addition, the Northwest Regional Land Use Geologist met with staff of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's local Municipal Services Office to discuss issues related to mineral interests and planning.

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines involvement in training was aimed at ensuring that municipal plans give appropriate consideration and accommodation to known mineral resources and areas of high mineral potential, and to public health and safety matters associated with mining-related hazards. With the assistance of the Mine Hazards Technical Specialist, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' Abandoned Mines Information System database is used to help municipal governments identify mine hazards to protect public health and safety. The more than 5000 sites identified in the database range from exploration trenches through multi-hazard abandoned mine locations to fully rehabilitated decommissioned mines.

Planning was begun in late 2005 for additional training at workshops, meetings, and conferences in 2006. A list of 11 planning-related events planned for locations across the province during 2006 was prepared, and opportunities to inform planners and planning consultants were identified. Many planners are not fully aware until they attend such a session that the mandate of the ministry's Mines and Minerals Division extends across the province, and that the division produces data that can support their work.

Other Planning Initiatives

There were a number of other important land use planning initiatives in Ontario during 2005. Some, such as the implementation of the *Greenbelt Act*, and the introduction of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Management Plan by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Renewal were focused specifically on southern Ontario. Others, such as the proposed *Clean Water Act*, were pan-provincial.

GREENBELT ACT

In late 2003, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing froze development in a zone surrounding the Greater Toronto Area. The plan was to introduce new legislation that would help to protect important agricultural and environmentally sensitive areas from the pressures of urban sprawl and development.

The *Greenbelt Protection Act* that was introduced in 2003 and approved in 2004 led to the establishment of the Greenbelt Task Force to gather information and develop recommendations for protecting a greenbelt in the Golden Horseshoe area. The southern Regional Land Use Geologist reviewed and commented on the plan and the associated documents that were developed by the Task Force, with the intent of ensuring that new planning policies would not restrict the aggregate and mineral resource industries.

The *Greenbelt Act* was subsequently proposed in October 2004, and received Royal Assent on February 24, 2005. It was deemed to have come into force in December 16, 2004. The Greenbelt Area was officially designated, and Greenbelt Plan was adopted on February 28, 2005. The Greenbelt Plan sets out land use policies and maps for the Greenbelt Area, including Protected Countryside, Specialty Crop, and Natural Heritage System areas. The *Greenbelt Act* and Greenbelt Plan, with accompanying land use designation maps, are available at

http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_16289_1.html

The final Greenbelt Plan allows activities related to the use of non-renewable resources in Protected Countryside areas, subject to all other applicable legislation, regulations and municipal official plan policies and by-laws. There are, however, some special provisions for the extraction of aggregate resources.

The Province will establish a Greenbelt Council, pursuant to the proposed legislation, to give advice to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The council will also perform other specified functions, including ensuring the objectives of the Greenbelt are maintained and promoted; establishing performance measures; and shaping the focus of the required 10-year review of the Greenbelt Plan.

GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Greater Golden Horseshoe—where the population is expected to increase by 3.7 million in the next 25 years—is currently struggling with options for managing rapid growth. Proper planning, along with new and renewed infrastructure to provide services to the increased population, will be needed.

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal has the overall responsibility for fostering and implementing the government's long-term plan for growth. It has mandated the Ontario Growth Secretariat, a branch within the ministry, to take the lead with regard to such projects within the ministry. It initiated a project to help define where growth would occur within the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and released a draft growth plan for the area on February 25, 2005 as a basis for discussion. The draft growth plan was intended to generate further input from key stakeholders, including municipalities, business, and environmental and other sectors, as a step towards a final growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The Greater Golden Horseshoe growth plan covers the areas of

- the Cities of Hamilton, Brantford, Guelph, Toronto, Barrie, Orillia, Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough;
- the Regional Municipalities of Niagara, Waterloo, Halton, Peel, York and Durham;
- the Counties of Haldimand, Brant, Wellington, Dufferin, Simcoe, Peterborough and Northumberland.

It will be the first growth plan developed under the *Places to Grow Act*, which was introduced in October 2004 and received Royal Assent in June 2005. Other areas may be identified as needing a growth plan, prepared in accordance with the *Places to Grow Act*, in future.

The southern Regional Land Use Geologist was the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' representative on the Growth Management Committee. He reviewed the proposed growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and forwarded comments regarding proposed management strategies to ensure that mineral resources will be considered during subsequent drafts of the plan.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLAN

In early 2005, the Niagara Escarpment Commission expressed an interest in underground aggregate operations and the possibility of such operations taking place in Ontario. The southern Regional Land Use Geologist worked with the Aggregate and Industrial Minerals Specialist from the Ontario Geological Survey's Sedimentary Geoscience Section to prepare a presentation on the topic for the Commission. The presentation was scheduled for late April, but was postponed due to higher priorities with the Niagara Escarpment Commission. The southern Regional Land Use Geologist gave the presentation to the Sudbury Rock and Lapidary Society in March. That event gave him the chance to find out the questions that are likely to arise at the Niagara Escarpment Commission when the presentation is given in 2006.

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LAND STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

The *Planning Act* provides the legislative framework for land use planning in Ontario. It sets out the land use planning system; identifies the decision-makers; outlines the avenues for dispute resolution; and provides for public input. It establishes the basis for provincial and local planning administration, the preparation of planning policies, zoning, development control, land division, the public's right to participate in the planning process and provides for a mechanism for resolving disputes.

In an effort to maintain strong communities, a clean and healthy environment, and a strong economy, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing proposed the *Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act* in 2005, in an effort to

- provide new planning rules and planning tools to strengthen implementation of provincial policies, support municipal priorities, and facilitate intensification/brownfield redevelopment, sustainable development, and community/design features;
- provide for an optional local appeal body that, if established by a municipality, would hear appeals of decisions on minor variances and consents;
- provide new rules for information, materials and parties at Ontario Municipal Board hearings;
- provide other technical amendments to the Planning Act that would improve administrative planning processes, and clarify existing provisions in the Planning Act and related regulations.

The proposed act received first reading on December 12, 2005. If passed, it will make numerous amendments to the *Planning Act*. Information about the act and its proposed changes is available at

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/026868ea.htm

The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator represented Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in discussions that preceded the first reading of the proposed act in 2005. She also participated in a workshop involving a number of planning-related interest groups that was held to review possible changes to the Ontario Municipal Board that were being considered for inclusion in the new legislation.

CLEAN WATER ACT

The Walkerton report prepared by Justice O'Connor in response to the tainted municipal water that killed 7 people and made thousands ill in 2000 made 121 recommendations for change. The government has already responded to many of them, and is currently working on "source protection", which was identified as a missing element in ensuring that Ontario's water is safe from source to tap.

In February 2004, the Ministry of Environment issued a "White Paper" on source protection. The White Paper described the proposed planning components of source protection legislation, including roles and responsibilities; the process for preparing plans; and the associated approval process. It also raised the questions of strengthening the rules surrounding water-taking permits, and requiring permit holders to pay for the water they take.

In March 2004, the Ministry of Environment held a series of 8 meetings to consult on the White Paper with regional and local source-protection stakeholders and experts. Meetings were held in London, Kitchener–Waterloo, Peterborough, Kingston, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and Toronto. The White Paper was also posted on the Environmental Registry, and interested parties were invited to submit comments on the various proposals it contained. In addition, Ministry of Envrionment held 7 sectoral round table meetings in February 2005 with a range of stakeholders to solicit feedback.

This work culminated in the proposed *Clean Water Act*, which received First Reading on December 5, 2005. The proposed bill will link to regulations that address various aspects of the source protection planning process. In conjunction with this, the Ministry of Environment posted a notice on the Environmental Registry, calling for feedback regarding the future regulations, including establishing source protection areas; making appointments to source protection committees; and developing different management options where conservation authorities are—and are not—present.

Municipal areas have already begun to characterize their water sources. The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist was involved in the Thunder Bay Area Aquifer Characterization Groundwater Management and Protection Study during 2005. The study was headed by consultants R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited and AMEC Earth and Environmental for the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. He attended several meetings and teleconferences and reviewed and commented on draft documents. The study was intended to provide a base of data from which groundwater protection strategies might be developed.

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is monitoring municipal work related to source protection interests, since future policies intended to protected drinking water might constrain mineral exploration and development in some areas.

FIRST NATIONS

The Mines and Minerals Division of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is working to develop relationships and local contacts with First Nation communities, and to provide them with information about mineral exploration and development. This relationship building will assist mineral sector clients when they notify communities of pending activities on First Nations' traditional lands.

There are approximately 126 First Nation reserves or communities in the province. Of these, 63 are in the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist's region, 29 are in the northeast Regional Land Use Geologist's region, and 34 are in

the southern Regional Land Use Geologist's region. Throughout the year, members of the land use group had various interactions with representatives of these groups.

Reserve Lands

Members of the land use group work with the Ontario Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs (formerly called the Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat) and planning consultants in several ways to help resolve native land claims and implement adjustments to the boundaries of Indian Reserves. They provide negotiating teams with background information on the mineral potential and past mineral exploration and development activity in areas of interest. They also assist with reviews of Crown land being considered by the Province of Ontario for addition to reserves, and private lands being purchased by the federal government for the same purpose.

In 2005, the southern Regional Land Use Geologist provided background information to the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the mineral resources and exploration history of an area of approximately 2800 hectares of Crown land immediately west of Long Lake in the City of Greater Sudbury. The Whitefish First Nation has made an application to purchase the Crown land in this area. He also worked with the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator to provide geological mapping and detailed mining lands information to provincial negotiators working to settle the Missanabie First Nation's land claim.

Mineral Exploration on Traditional Lands

First Nation communities have become aware that mineral exploration is taking place on their traditional lands, as exploration for diamonds and other commodities has extended into the northern parts of the province. They are concerned that exploration activities will impact upon their treaty and constitutional rights, and are trying to balance outside interests with personal and community interests, community and economic development, and environmental protection on their traditional lands. Many First Nation communities propose to achieve this through education and training; communications; building relationships and trust with mining industry representatives; revenue sharing; joint management; and employment opportunities within a framework based on traditional values and culture.

At the same time, the mineral sector wants clarity and certainty concerning its rights to explore for, and develop, new mineral discoveries within these lands.

Although the only statutory requirement in the *Mining Act* for mineral sector clients to demonstrate fair and good-faith consultation with affected First Nation communities is at the advanced stage of exploration, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines recommends initial notification of First Nation communities as soon as possible after mining claims are staked. The ministry's Mineral Development and Lands Branch has prepared a list of consultants who can act as a facilitator or negotiator for companies that would like to have this service during their consultations with First Nations.

Such notification will establish a good basis for discussions if and when the exploration programs are successful. In support of this, the land use group provided copies of a checklist at events such as the regional Mines and Minerals symposia and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada annual convention to assist mineral companies active near Aboriginal communities with their consultation activities. The communications that mineral sector clients and First Nation communities share will help alleviate issues by ensuring that information is shared about the concerns of both parties.

Should mineral-related activities impact on treaty or aboriginal rights, appropriate compensation must be provided, usually as negotiated through an impact–benefit agreement.

Educational Initiatives

In support of capacity building amongst First Nation communities, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines offers prospecting courses to interested First Nation communities. Mr. Peter Moses, First Nation Minerals Information Officer with the Resident Geologist Program travels to communities to provide the training.

In 2005, the northwest Regional Land Use Geologist led a field trip jointly with Mr. Moses in the area north of the community of Iskatewizgagegan #39 First Nation on Shoal Lake, west of Kenora. He also conducted and assisted in several information sessions for the community, including presenting a talk to the Band Council outlining the mineral exploration cycle from grassroots prospecting to advanced exploration. In addition, he provided a one-day GPS familiarization course to graduates of a prospector's course given by Mr. Moses and Craig Ravnaas, Kenora District Geologist.

He also worked to help the Sandy Lake First Nation understand mineral exploration and development. He accompanied the Mineral Development and Lands Branch's northwest Mineral Development Coordinator on a community visit to help the community develop a community-based land use plan for its traditional land use area, and advised the community about developing a land use plan, including the financial resources and time required. Additional meetings are planned for early 2006.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

During 2005, the Regional Land Use Geologists and Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator contributed to, and took part in, a number of industry-related conferences and workshops. Events such as these offer opportunities for interactions with clients to discuss points of interest and concern. They also offer the members of the land use group, who must be members of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario, to learn about new research and concepts in geoscience in order to maintain their professional standing.

In March, the members of the land use group contributed to the development of the Resident Geologist Program display at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada annual convention, and attended the event to discuss matters of interest with current and potential future clients.

The northwest Regional Land Use Geologist attended the annual Northwest Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium in Thunder Bay, and staffed a regional poster outlining exploration and mining activities in the northwest. He also attended the annual Institute of Lake Superior Geology conference in Nipigon, Ontario, in early summer.

The southern Regional Land Use Geologist attended the 2005 Northeast Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium held in Timmins. In addition, he co-authored a paper entitled "*Meeting the Industrial Minerals Industry's Land-Use Challenges in Ontario*" with the Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and the Regional Resident Geologist for southern Ontario, and gave a presentation on the same topic at the 17th Annual Canadian Conference on Markets for Industrial Minerals in Toronto in October.

The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator also attended the Prospector and Developers Association of Canada annual convention in Toronto, the 2005 Northwest and Northeast Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposia held in Thunder Bay and Timmins, and the Ontario Exploration and Gesocience Symposium, held in Toronto. She helped plan the Resident Geologist Program participation in these events, with the southern Regional Land Use Geologist prepared a poster for the Northeast Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium, and assisted visitors to the Resident Geologist Program booth and posters at these events. She also worked with the Regional Land Use Geologists and other staff of the Resident Geologist Program to prepare handouts relating to land use, and to various mineral commodities being sought and/or produced in Ontario.

OTHER

The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator and Regional Land Use Geologists completed a wide range of other work in 2005 that does not fit into categories such as the ones cited above. Such work includes contributing to or preparing internal documents such as briefing notes and resource materials for senior management on issues being addressed by representatives of the land use group and others, reviewing and commenting on proposed legislation and regulations, and dealing with site-specific issues.

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines initiated work on a Mineral Development Strategy for Ontario in mid-2005. The southern Regional Land Use Geologist was a member of the committee that worked on the mineral strategy; with a particular focus on land use planning and mineral exploration and development issues. Much of the

strategy is focussed on exploration on Crown land, although certain sections deal specifically with exploration on private property, particularly in southern Ontario.

The southern Regional Land Use Geologist worked with the Sedimentary Geoscience Section this year to complete the field work, bedrock aggregate maps and part of the report of the Aggregate Resources Inventory for Leeds–Grenville County. In addition, he developed the Request for Proposal document for the sand and gravel component of the report, which was awarded to Jagger Hims Limited of Newmarket, Ontario. Work on this report will be completed in March 2006 for release later in 2006.

The southern Regional Land Use Geologist also edited the Paleozoic Geology of Cockburn Island report. Field work and drilling, for this project, was done by R.R. Wolf in 1985, and supplementary work was completed in 2005. The report should be available for release in mid 2006. In the absence of a northeast Regional Land use Geologist, the southern Regional Land Use Geologist also assimilated and digitized a variety of data for Ontario's Far North. This resulted in a series of 14 maps that illustrated a variety of geologic and economic themes.

The Land Use Policy and Planning Coordinator also completed a range of management-related duties such as reviewing and commenting on draft reports and presentations; preparing budget reports; and working with the Senior Manager and the northeast and northwest Regional Managers of the Resident Geologist Program on various program objectives during 2005. She also hired and supervised a Summer Experience Student during the student's work placement, and provided overall guidance and supervision for the land use group.

Metric Conversion Table

Conversion from SI to Imperial			Conversion from Imperial to SI		
SI Unit	*Multiplied by*	*Gives*	*Imperial Unit*	*Multiplied by*	*Gives*
		LENGTH			
1 mm	0.039 37	inches	1 inch	**25.4**	mm
1 cm	0.393 70	inches	1 inch	**2.54**	cm
1 m	3.280 84	feet	1 foot	**0.304 8**	m
1 m	0.049 709	chains	1 chain	20.116 8	m
1 km	0.621 371	miles (statute)	1 mile (statute)	**1.609 344**	km
		AREA			
1 cm^2	0.155 0	square inches	1 square inch	**6.451 6**	cm^2
1 m^2	10.763 9	square feet	1 square foot	**0.092 903 04**	m^2
1 km^2	0.386 10	square miles	1 square mile	2.589 988	km^2
1 ha	2.471 054	acres	1 acre	0.404 685 6	ha
		VOLUME			
1 cm^3	0.061 023	cubic inches	1 cubic inch	**16.387 064**	cm^3
1 m^3	35.314 7	cubic feet	1 cubic foot	0.028 316 85	m^3
1 m^3	1.307 951	cubic yards	1 cubic yard	0.764 554 86	m^3
		CAPACITY			
1 L	1.759 755	pints	1 pint	0.568 261	L
1 L	0.879 877	quarts	1 quart	1.136 522	L
1 L	0.219 969	gallons	1 gallon	**4.546 090**	L
		MASS			
1 g	0.035 273 962	ounces (avdp)	1 ounce (avdp)	28.349 523	g
1 g	0.032 150 747	ounces (troy)	1 ounce (troy)	**31.103 476 8**	g
1 kg	2.204 622 6	pounds (avdp)	1 pound (avdp)	**0.453 592 37**	kg
1 kg	0.001 102 3	tons (short)	1 ton (short)	**907.184 74**	kg
1 t	1.102 311 3	tons (short)	1 ton (short)	**0.907 184 74**	t
1 kg	0.000 984 21	tons (long)	1 ton (long)	**1016.046 908 8**	kg
1 t	0.984 206 5	tons (long)	1 ton (long)	**1.016 046 90**	t
		CONCENTRATION			
1 g/t	0.029 166 6	ounce (troy)/ ton (short)	1 ounce (troy)/ ton (short)	34.285 714 2	g/t
1 g/t	0.583 333 33	pennyweights/ ton (short)	1 pennyweight/ ton (short)	1.714 285 7	g/t

OTHER USEFUL CONVERSION FACTORS

	Multiplied by	
1 ounce (troy) per ton (short)	31.103 477	grams per ton (short)
1 gram per ton (short)	0.032 151	ounces (troy) per ton (short)
1 ounce (troy) per ton (short)	20.0	pennyweights per ton (short)
1 pennyweight per ton (short)	0.05	ounces (troy) per ton (short)

Note: Conversion factors which are in bold type are exact. The conversion factors have been taken from or have been derived from factors given in the Metric Practice Guide for the Canadian Mining and Metallurgical Industries, published by the Mining Association of Canada in co-operation with the Coal Association of Canada.

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